TOKYOPOP
BLADE OF HEAVEN
5
ART BY
KYUNG-IL YANG
STORY BY
YONG-SU HWANG

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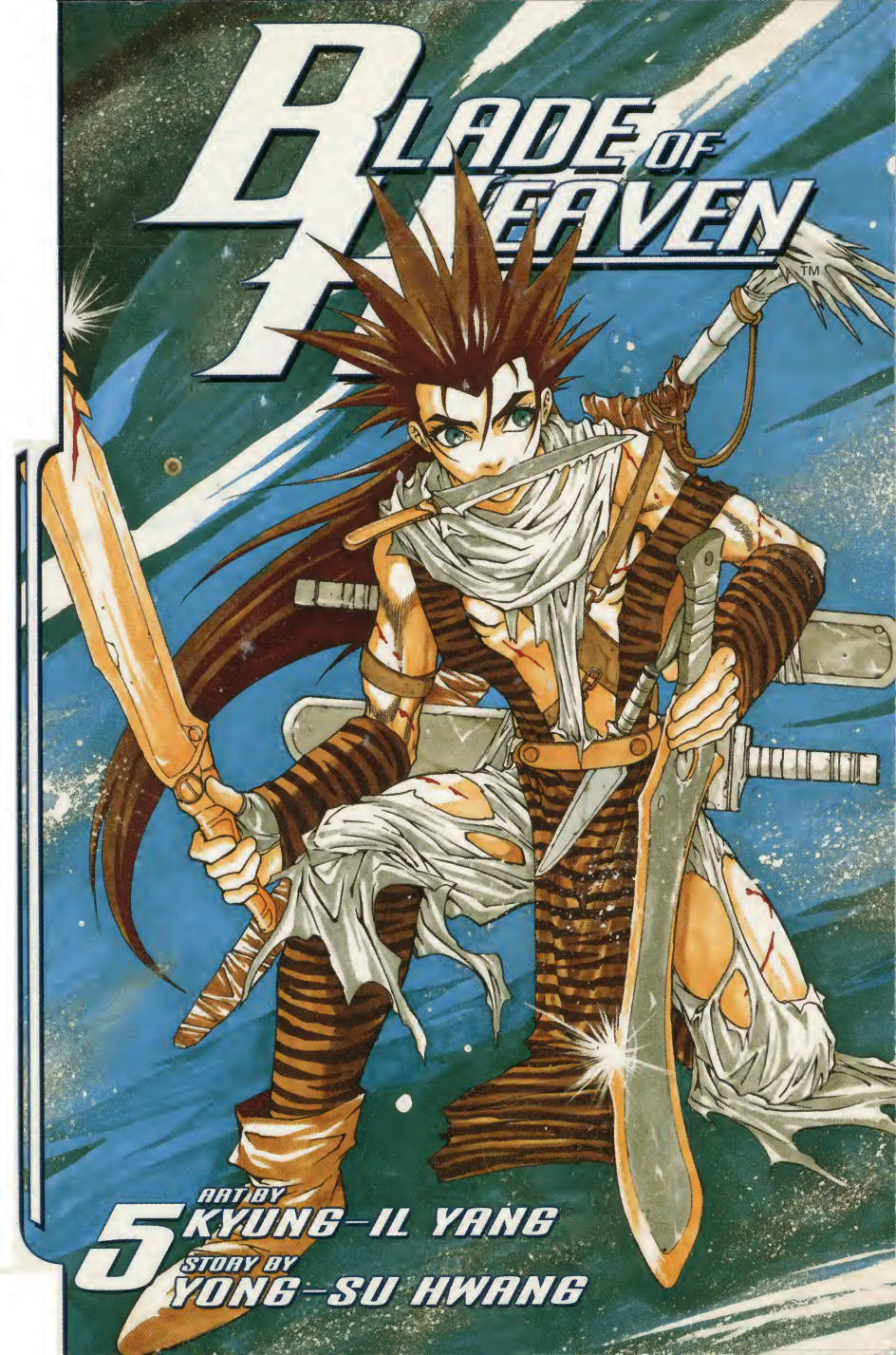
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Manga
Action/Fantasy
US $9.99
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BLADE OF HEAVEN™

Soma continues to battle Fan and Yin, and ends up falling under Fan's Great Infinite Delusion spell—leaving Soma in a trance-like state. Tan and Kay seize the moment, and attempt to take the Blade. As Soma and Kay clash, the ensuing explosion of energy reveals the next component of the Blade!

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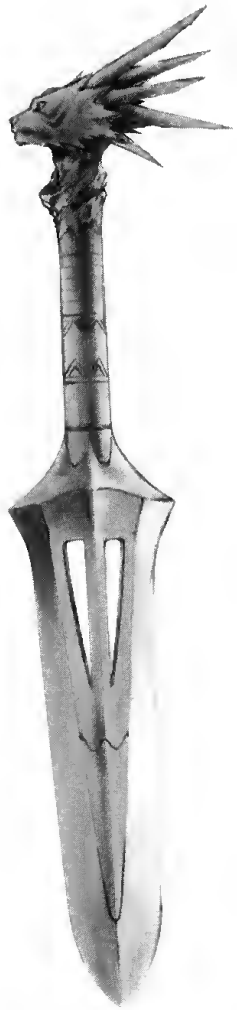


PREVIOUSLY IN

BLADE OF HEAVEN

SINCE BEING CHARGED WITH ESCORTING PRINCESS AROOMEE AROUND THE MORTAL REALM, SOMA AND CREW HAVE SURVIVED PITCHED BATTLES WITH THE EVIL BARURUGO AND THE WRETCHED DARKLING, AS WELL AS HORDES OF BLOODTHIRSTY ZOMBIES. BUT THE COST HAS BEEN GREAT.

THE HONORABLE GEN. WINTER IS THOUGHT TO BE DEAD, AND SOMA'S GRIP ON REALITY HAS BEEN PUSHED TO THE BREAKING POINT. UNDER THE BLADE'S INFLUENCE, SOMA'S BAND VENTURES INTO THE DESERT WASTELAND, SEARCHING FOR THE BLADE'S SISTER PIECES. BUT THIS DESERT IS TEEMING WITH LIFE--MOST OF IT DEADLY.

BLADE OF HEAVEN

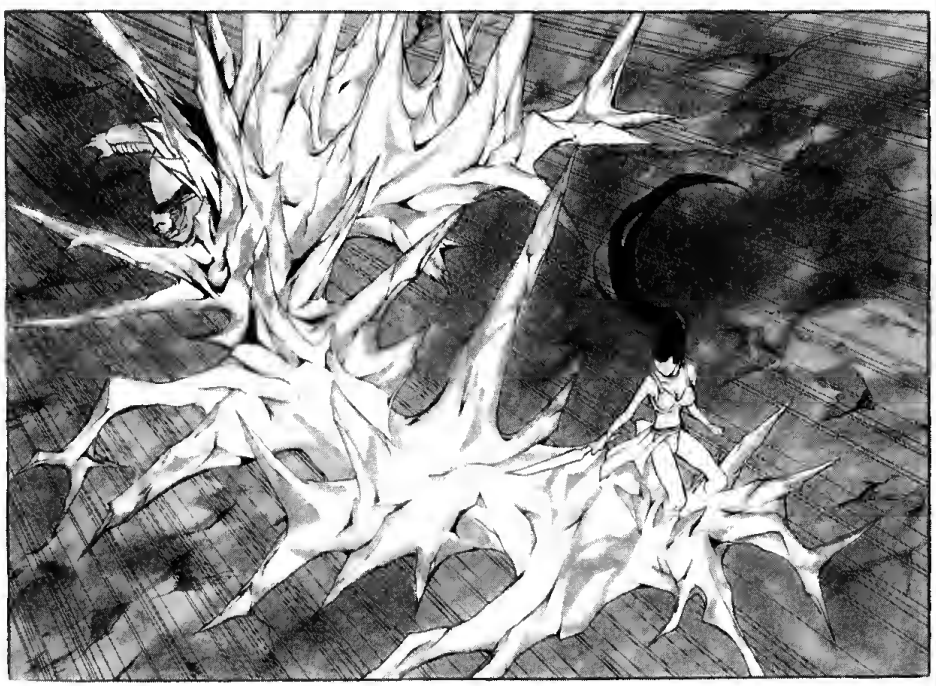
VOLUME 5

DON'T LET COCKINESS BLIND YOU TO REALITY.

HUNDREDS OF BATTLES HAVE FINE-TUNED THAT BOY'S SKILLS. FOR EVERY ENEMY THAT ATTACKS, HE COUNTERS WITH THE PRECISION OF A SURGEON, LIMITING HIS STRIKES TO VITAL POINTS ONLY.
.....

THAT SAID... THERE ARE CHINKS IN HIS ARMOR. HIS ATTACKS ARE MERELY KNEE-JERK RESPONSES. THAT'S WHY HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE HIS TECHNIQUE.
EVENTUALLY, OPPONENTS WILL FIGURE THAT OUT. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS...

RYUHA !!



YOU BIG OOPE! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE AIMIN' THOSE ICE CUBES, WILL YA!!
WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE, REMEMBER?! NOW LET GO OF MY HONEY BEAR THIS INSTANT!!

I-I C-CAN'T H-HELP M-M-MYSELF...

HEH HEH...! MUCH LIKE HOW THE HOUND CORRALS THE FOX...I HAVE LED YOU RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!

AND NOW, MY PREY...IT IS TIME FOR THIS HUNTER TO STRIKE!!
AH!

HURK!
TAKE YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF HER!!
NOT SO FAST, BOY...! OUR BUSINESS IS FAR FROM FINISHED!!
NO
YOU WANT IT?! YOU GOT IT, CREEP!! FEEL THE CLAWS OF THE BLADE'S LION!!
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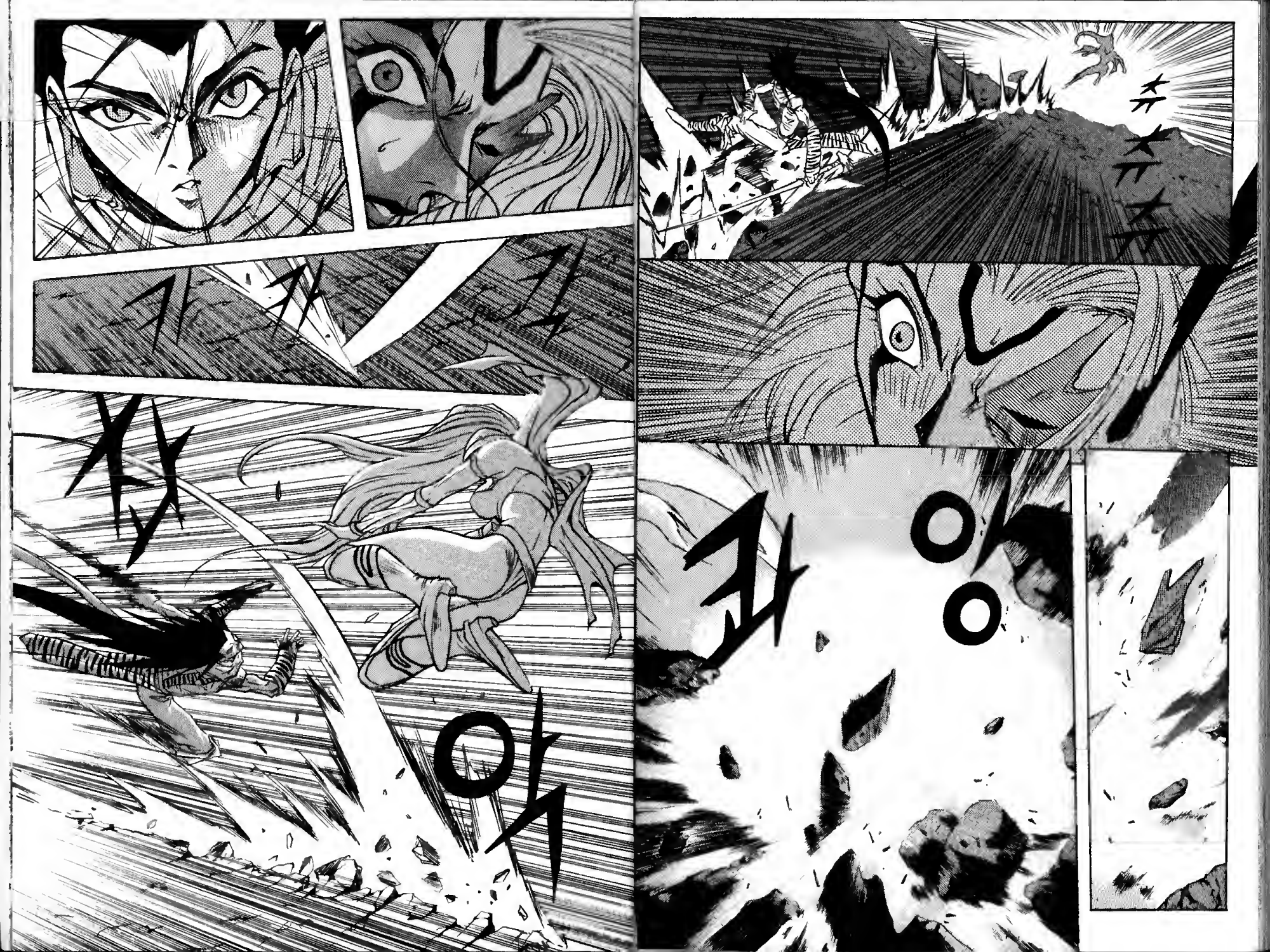
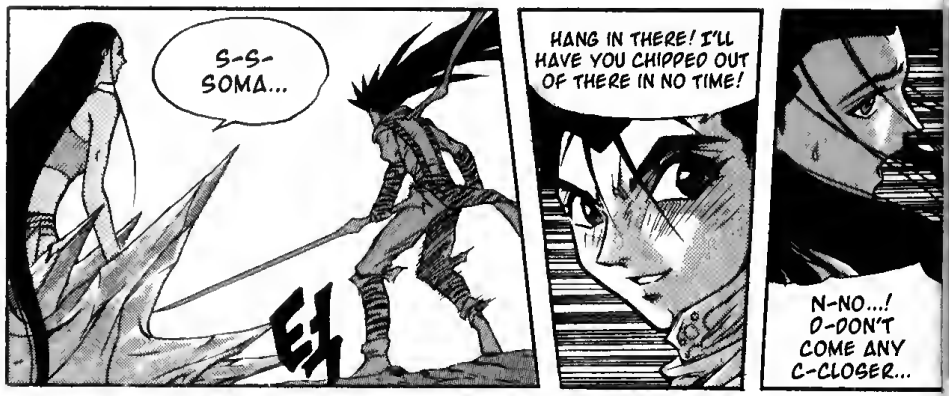
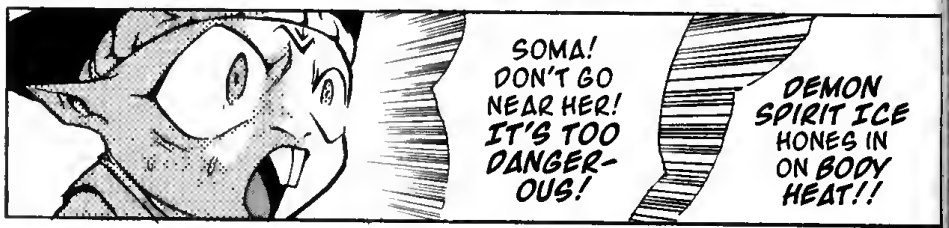
휘익




S-S-SOMA...
HANG IN THERE! I'LL HAVE YOU CHIPPED OUT OF THERE IN NO TIME!
N-NO...! D-DON'T COME ANY C-CLOSER...


SOMA! DON'T GO NEAR HER! IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
DEMON SPIRIT ICE HONES IN ON BODY HEAT!!

WHAT THE--?! I CUT THE ICE, BUT CHULDO FELT IT...?!

WHAT ARE YEH, DEAF?! D-DO AS I S-SAID!! C-CUT OFF ME BLEEDIN' ARM!! YOU MUST DESTROY THIS THING BEFORE IT B-BE TOO LATE!! PLEASE... I'M B-BEGGIN' YEH!!

I ALWAYS KNEW MY BODY WAS HOT, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

H-HEAR ME NOW, BOY... M-MY ARM... YOU MUST H-HACK IT OFF...

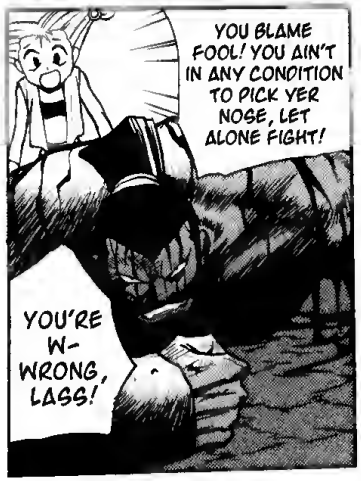
FORGIVE ME, CHULDO!
크
아
아
아

CHULDO ?!
CHULDO!! NO!!
파 파 팍
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! THERE'S SO MUCH B-BLOOD...!
AYE, LASS. 'T-TIS BUT A SCRATCH TO THE M-MIGHTY CHULDO...
WELL... THAT WAS ANTICLIMACTIC. I THOUGHT THE "LION'S" CLAWS WOULD CUT DEEPER THAN THAT. TRULY WEAK. TRULY PATHETIC.
IT'S CLEAR THAT ANY FEAR WE HAD OF YOU WAS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED.
크 우 우 우
COMPARED TO KING PACHUN'S LION ENERGY...YOURS RANKS AS A MERE FRISKY KITTEN.

YOUR LION ENERGY, MUCH LIKE YOUR SARCASM, IS PREDICTABLE AND INEFFECTIVE.
TRYING TO GUT ME IS ONE THING--BUT CALLING ME UNFUNNY?! NOW THAT'S LOW!! 'SIDES-- WITH THAT LAST ATTACK, I WAS MERELY SOFTENIN' YA UP FOR THE KILL!!
HEH... NOW THE FUN REALLY BEGINS!
SOMA !!
WAIT!!
LIKE I SAID.. PREDICT-ABLE
FOOL
HE'S WALKING RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!
FILTHY ICE CUBES! HOW DARE YOU MAKE HER NIPS STAND ERECT WITHOUT CUTTIN' ME IN ON THE ACTION!

SOMA...PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

LET ME BE, I SAID! LET GO!


YOU BLAME FOOL! YOU AIN'T IN ANY CONDITION TO PICK YER NOSE, LET ALONE FIGHT!
YOU'RE W-WRONG, LASS!

AS LONG AS THERE'S BLOOD LEFT IN THESE VEINS...I'LL NEVER STOP FIGHTIN'!

CAN YOU AT LEAST STOP LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DRESS THE BLOODY STUMP?!

CAREFUL, NOW! NOT SO TIGHT! YER HURTIN' MY CHULDO-WULDO!!

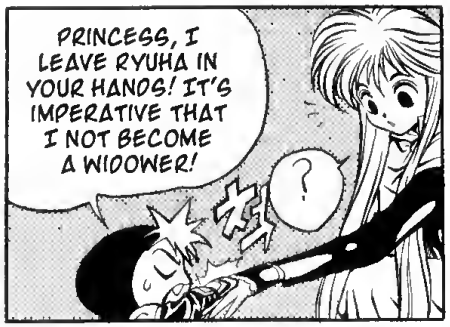
IT...IT ISN'T ENOUGH! THE BLEEDING WON'T STOP!

IF HIS BLEEDING CONTINUES, IT WON'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE...

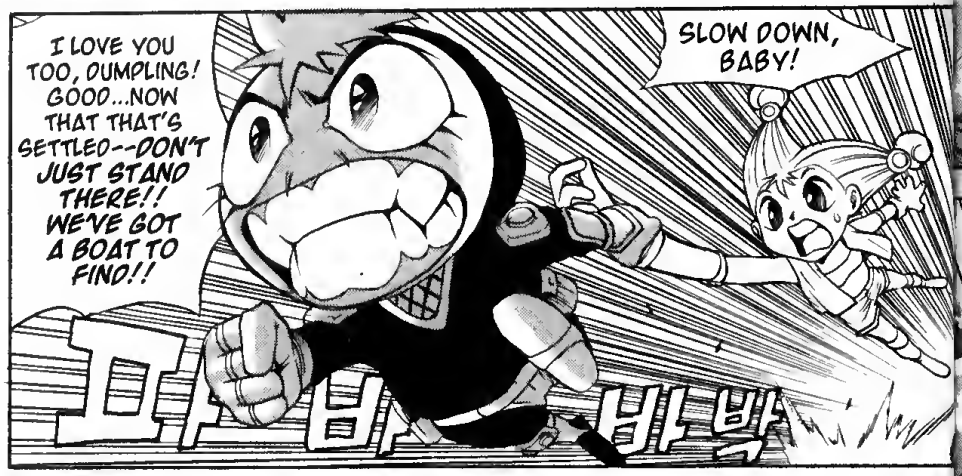
NO!! DON'T YOU SAY IT!! CHULDO WILL NEVER DIE!! I'LL SAVE HIM!!
I JUST HAVE TO BRING THE YAHOSUN HERE! THEN CHULDO WILL BE SAVED!!

YAHO... SUN?
I THINK IT'S THEIR SHIP.

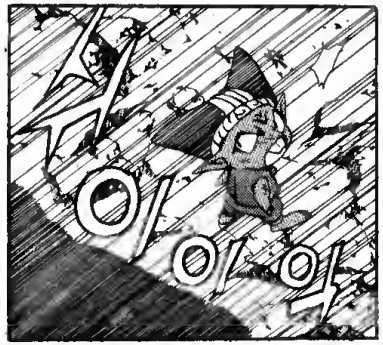
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! YOU CAN STOP ASKING...! I'LL TAKE CHARGE.

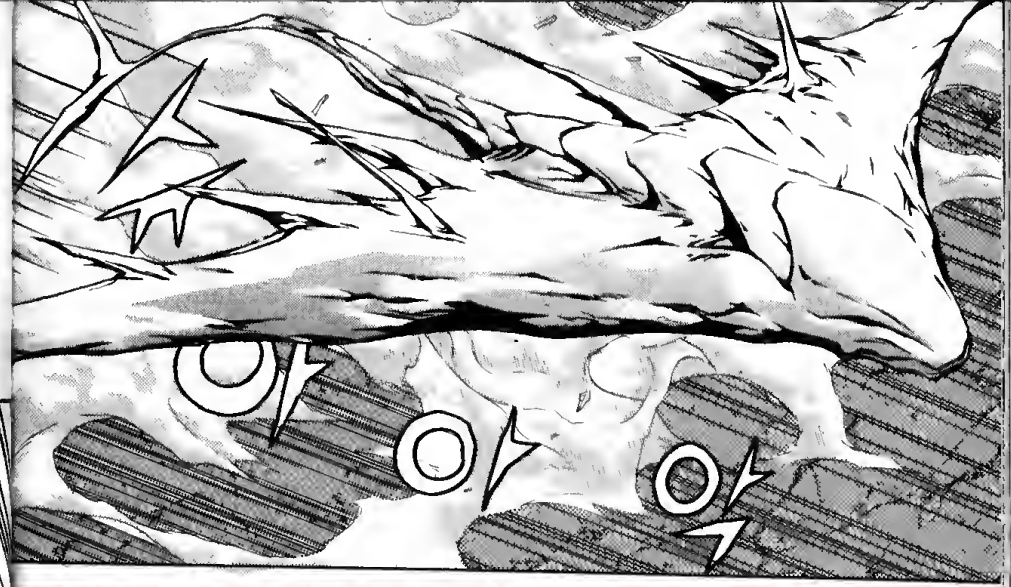

PRINCESS, I LEAVE RYUHA IN YOUR HANDS! IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT I NOT BECOME A WIDOWER!
?

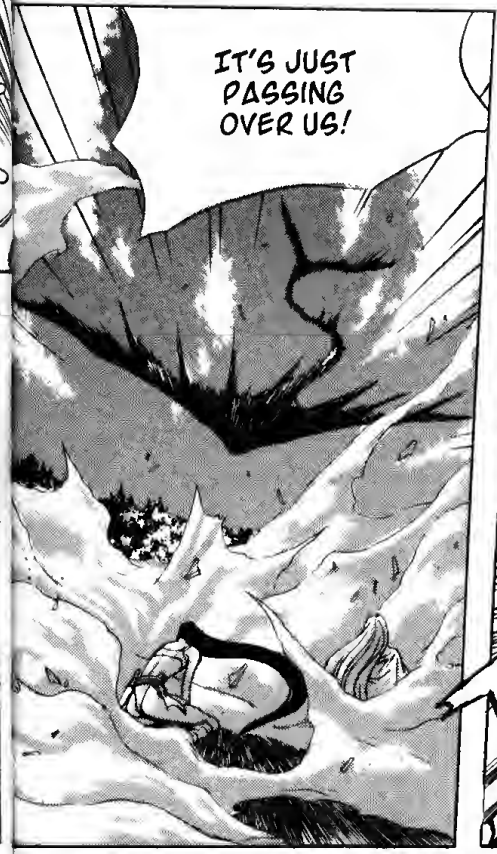
DON'T WORRY, MY LOVE! YOUR STRAPPING, WELL-ENDOWED HUSBAND SHALL RETURN!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

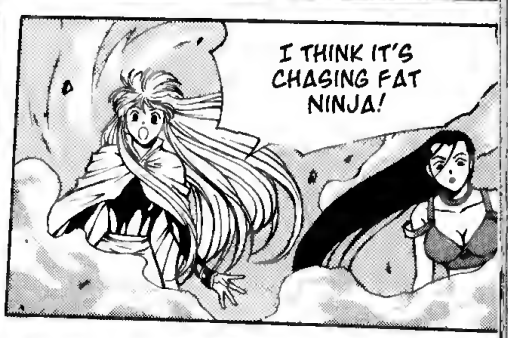

I LOVE YOU TOO, DUMPLING! GOOD...NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED--DON'T JUST STAND THERE!! WE'VE GOT A BOAT TO FIND!!
SLOW DOWN, BABY!

.....



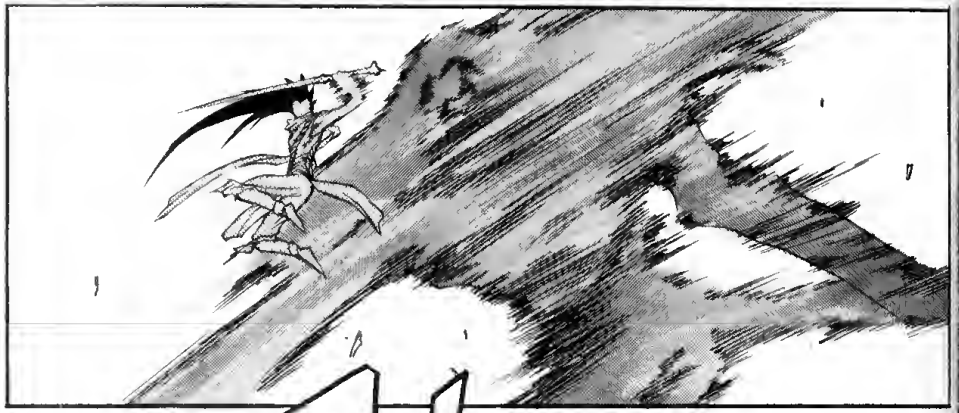



IT'S JUST PASSING OVER US!

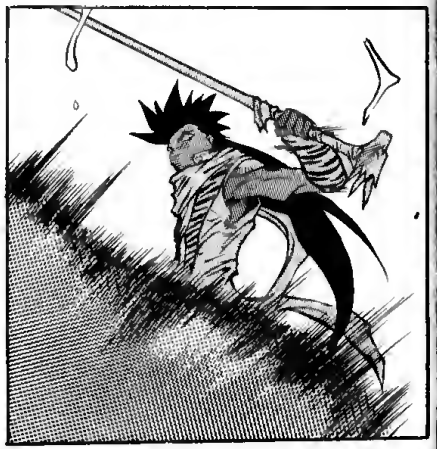

I THINK IT'S CHASING FAT NINJA!

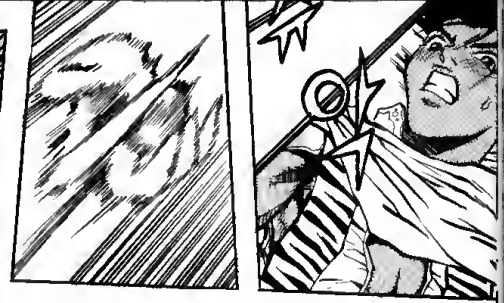
PFFT! WHAT AN IDIOT. EVEN WITH THE BLADE, HE'S STILL GETTIN' HIS BUTT KICKED. I MEAN, I'M ACTUALLY EMBARRASSED FOR THE SWORD.
I HOPE YOU'RE PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE.
IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE A SUPERB EXECUTION ON THE DEMON'S BEHALF OF THE CONTINUOUS ATTACK TECHNIQUE. THEY ARE SIMPLY NOT GIVING HIM THE TIME OR THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNLEASH THE BLADE'S LION.
SEE? THIS IS WHAT I WAS TALK-ING ABOUT EARLIER.
ONE DEMON ATTACKS...AND THEN QUICKLY RETREATS, AS IF TO REGROUP. MEANWHILE, THE NEXT DEMON ATTACKS AND RETREATS.
THEN THE THIRD DEMON ATTACKS...AND SO ON. IT'S QUITE THE VICIOUS CYCLE, REALLY. HE SIMPLY CAN'T INSTINCTIVELY COUNTER-ATTACK.

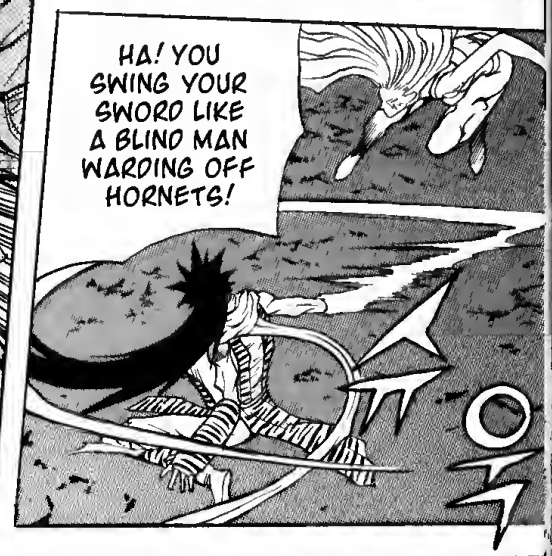
WHAT'S WRONG, HERO?! WHERE'S THAT BEATING YOU WERE PROMISING TO GIVE ME?!
NEVER FEAR, BOY! I BROUGHT ENOUGH PAIN TO GO AROUND!!

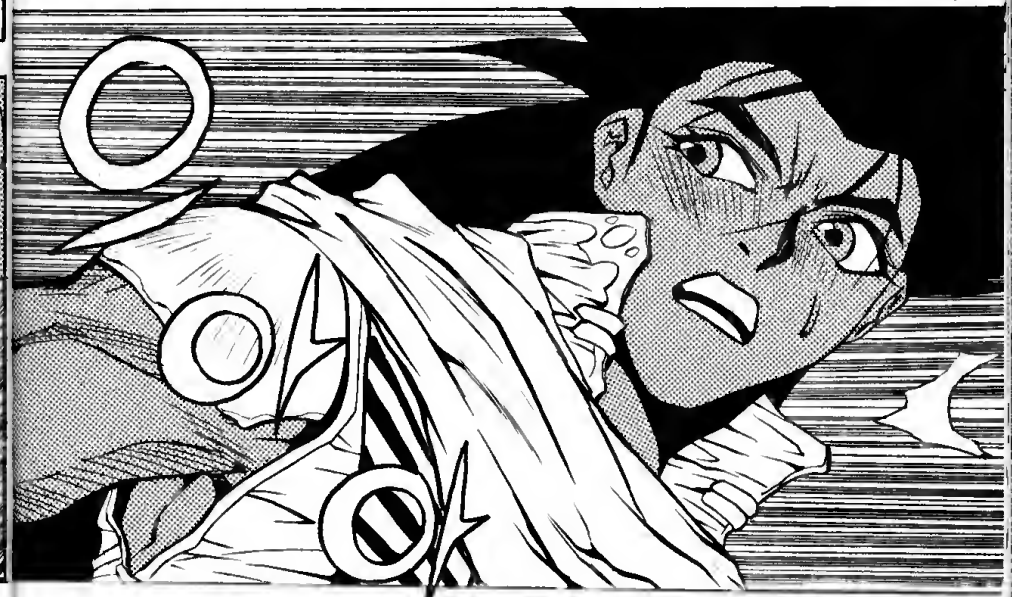


HA!






HA! YOU SWING YOUR SWORD LIKE A BLIND MAN WARDING OFF HORNETS!

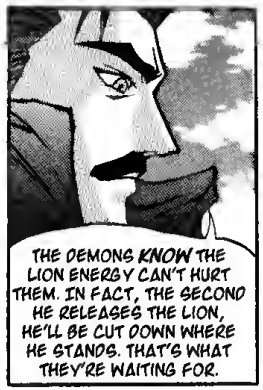


QUITE AN APPROPRIATE ANALOGY, SISTER! HE REALLY IS HELPLESS AGAINST THE STING OF OUR ATTACKS!!

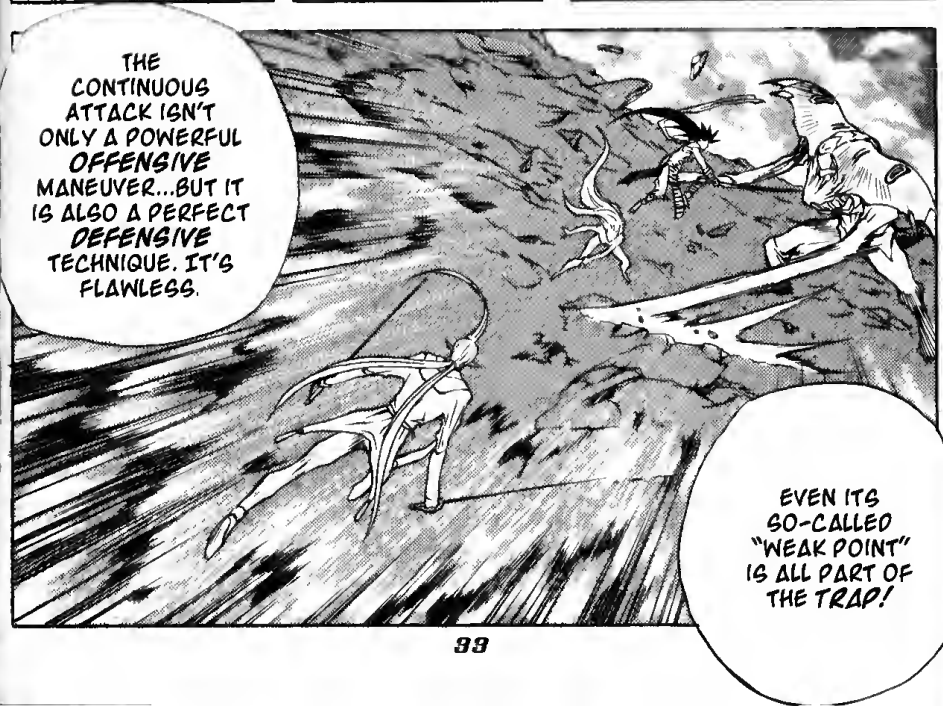
EVENTUALLY, MINOR INJURIES AND EXHAUSTION WILL TAKE THEIR TOLL. IF THIS CONTINUES, HE WILL BE DEFEATED!

Y'KNOW, IF IT WERE ME, I'D HAVE CALLED FORTH THE LION HOURS AGO.

THEN YOU'D BE WASTING YOUR TIME.


THE DEMONS KNOW THE LION ENERGY CAN'T HURT THEM. IN FACT, THE SECOND HE RELEASES THE LION, HE'LL BE CUT DOWN WHERE HE STANDS. THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE WAITING FOR.

WHAT...? WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT...?

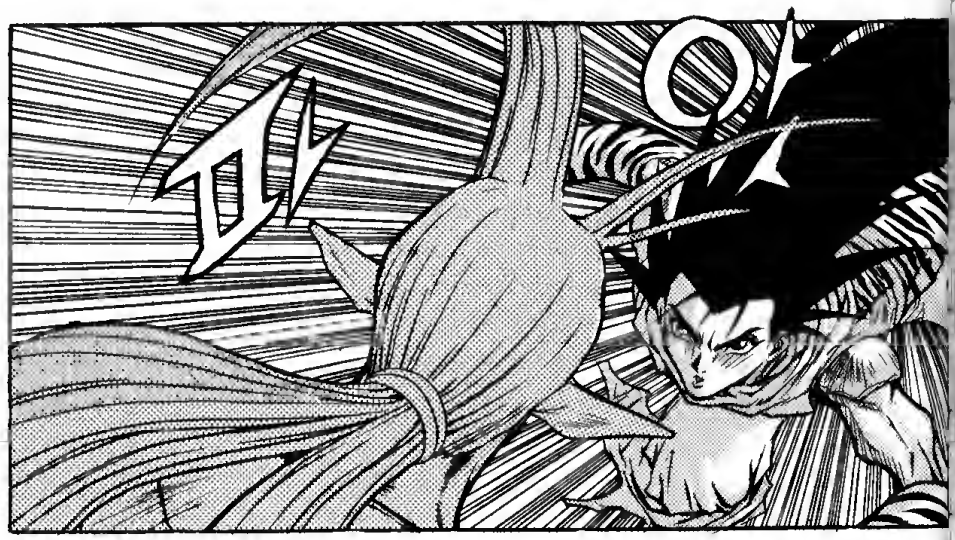

THE CONTINUOUS ATTACK ISN'T ONLY A POWERFUL OFFENSIVE MANEUVER...BUT IT IS ALSO A PERFECT DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUE. IT'S FLAWLESS.
EVEN ITS SO-CALLED "WEAK POINT" IS ALL PART OF THE TRAP!

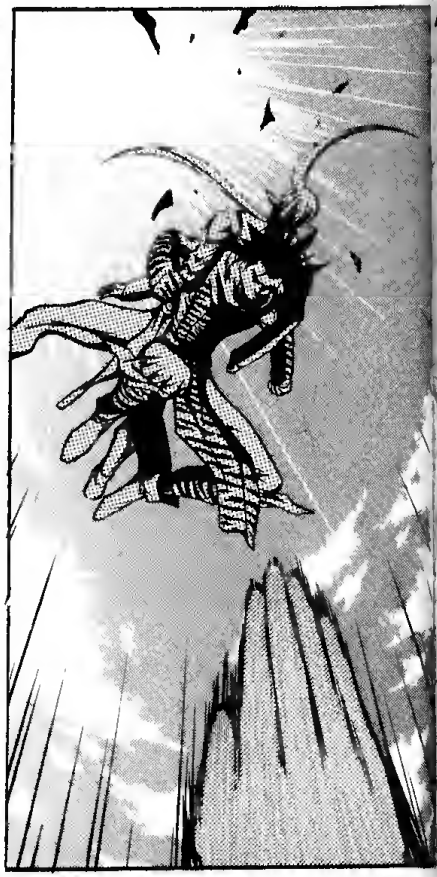
SUCH IS THE NATURE OF WAR. IT TAKES ONLY ONE SPLIT-SECOND LAPSE IN JUDGMENT TO SEND YOU TO THE BANKS OF THE RIVER STYX.
WELL, YOU SHOWED ME YOUR POWER! NOW IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU MINE!!
FINALLY! AN OPENING!!
NOW I GET IT...THEY'LL DELIBERATELY LEAVE AN OPENING...TRICKING HIM INTO ATTACKING IN THAT DIRECTION!
...

BLADE OF HEAVEN

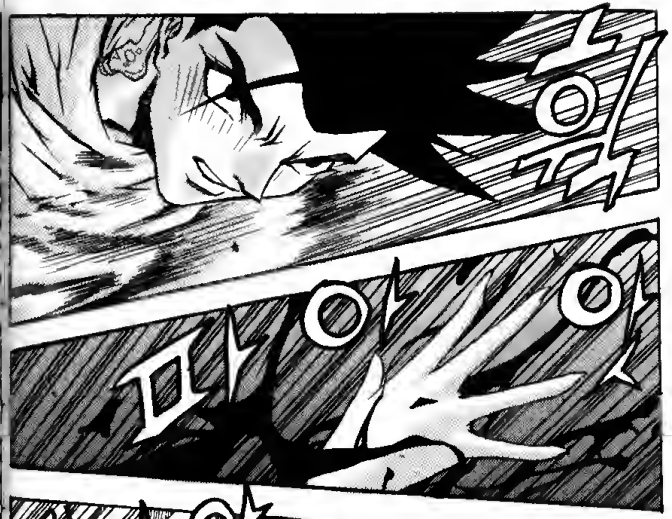
YOU...JUST... DON'T...GET IT!!
YOU MORONS THINK MERE PAIN WILL STOP ME?!
RAARRGH!!
YOU... PERSISTENT LITTLE...

WHAT'S THIS?! THE BLADE'S ENERGY...!
I...I CAN'T SENSE IT ANYMORE! WHAT'S THIS MORTAL PLAYING AT?! IS IT A TRAP...?
YOU MAY THINK I'M A MOUSE IN A TRAP...BUT YOU'RE THE ONES THAT WENT FOR THE CHEESE!!
NO!! HE HAS TRICKED US!!
LORD FAN!! HE'S COMING!!





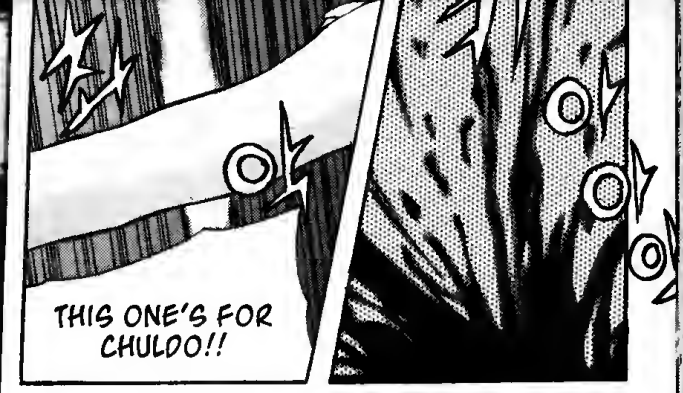
HOW DARE YOU STRIKE HIM!! I'LL PLUCK OUT YOUR EYES AND FEAST UPON THEM LIKE GRAPES!!



NO...!! IT'S ANOTHER TRICK!! HE MADE ME IMPALE LORD FAN WITH M.Y. OWN HAND!!

HEY, RYUHA! COME GET SOME OF THIS ACTION, GIRL!

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!! FLYING STEEL!!


THIS ONE'S FOR CHULDO!!

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SMASHED EGG AND YOUR SKULL?! IN ABOUT SIX SECONDS, NOTHING AT ALL!!

HOLY CRAP...! DID YOU SEE THAT?! HE JUST DROVE THAT DEMON...ALONG WITH HIMSELF...HEADFIRST INTO SOLID ROCK! HE'S NOT BRAVE--HE'S SUICIDAL!!

IN ANY GIVEN FIGHT, A WARRIOR WILL ENCOUNTER MANY VARIABLES. THAT'S WHY IT'S CRUCIAL TO BE ABLE TO MAKE QUICK JUDGMENTS.
SO, IN SOME CASES, RECKLESSNESS CAN BE ADVANTAGEOUS.
DUDE, MAKE UP YOUR MIND! FIRST HE'S TOO PREDICTABLE, AND NOW HE'S A FREAKIN' BATTLEFIELD GENIUS?!
IT'S LUCK! BLIND, STINKIN' LUCK! AND ONLY A RANK AMATEUR WOULD LET LUCK DETERMINE HIS FATE IN A FIGHT!
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD LOOK CLOSER, MY YOUNG PUPIL.
I SEE...SO YOU BELIEVE HIS ATTACKS WERE BASED MERELY ON COINCIDENCE.
T-TOLD 'EM...YOU TRY TO KISS A SNAKE, YOU GET BITTEN ON THE LIP! OR TONGUE. OR BOTH. LOOK... THE POINT IS, DON'T DO IT!

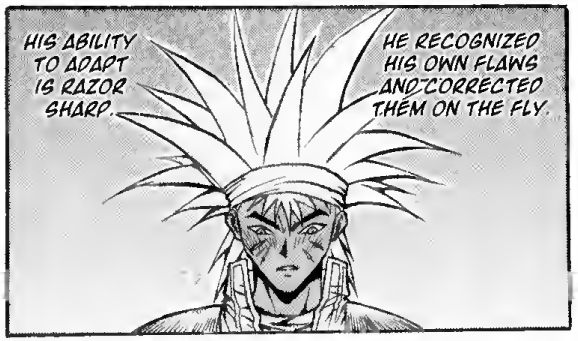
WONDER WHICH BRAIN CELLS I SNUFFED OUT WITH THAT LITTLE STUNT.
HOPEFULLY NOT THE ONES FOR CURSING AND PILLOW TALK.
GREAT. JUST... GREAT. AND THAT'S THE KNEE I USUALLY SLAP, TOO.
NO MATTER!! NOTHING CAN STOP ME!! I AM SOMA--THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN!! HEAR ME ROAR!!
SOMA! YOUR LEG!
WHAT?! WHEN DID THEY--?!
--WAIT--!! I REMEMBER!!
AW, CRUD.
NOW--FEEL THE POWER OF MY STEEL THUNDER ATTACK!!
IT APPEARS YOUR LUCK HAS RUN OUT, MORTAL!
OH NO!! IT'S INFECTED WITH DEMON SPIRIT ICE!!

BLADE OF HEAVEN

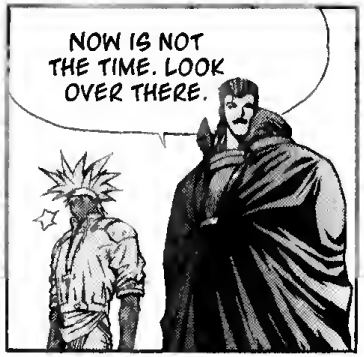
SOMA!!
GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
AHOH
AHOH
ZOOO

NICE TRY--BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' ANOTHER CHANCE TO CALL FORTH YOUR DEMON SPIRIT LACKEY!

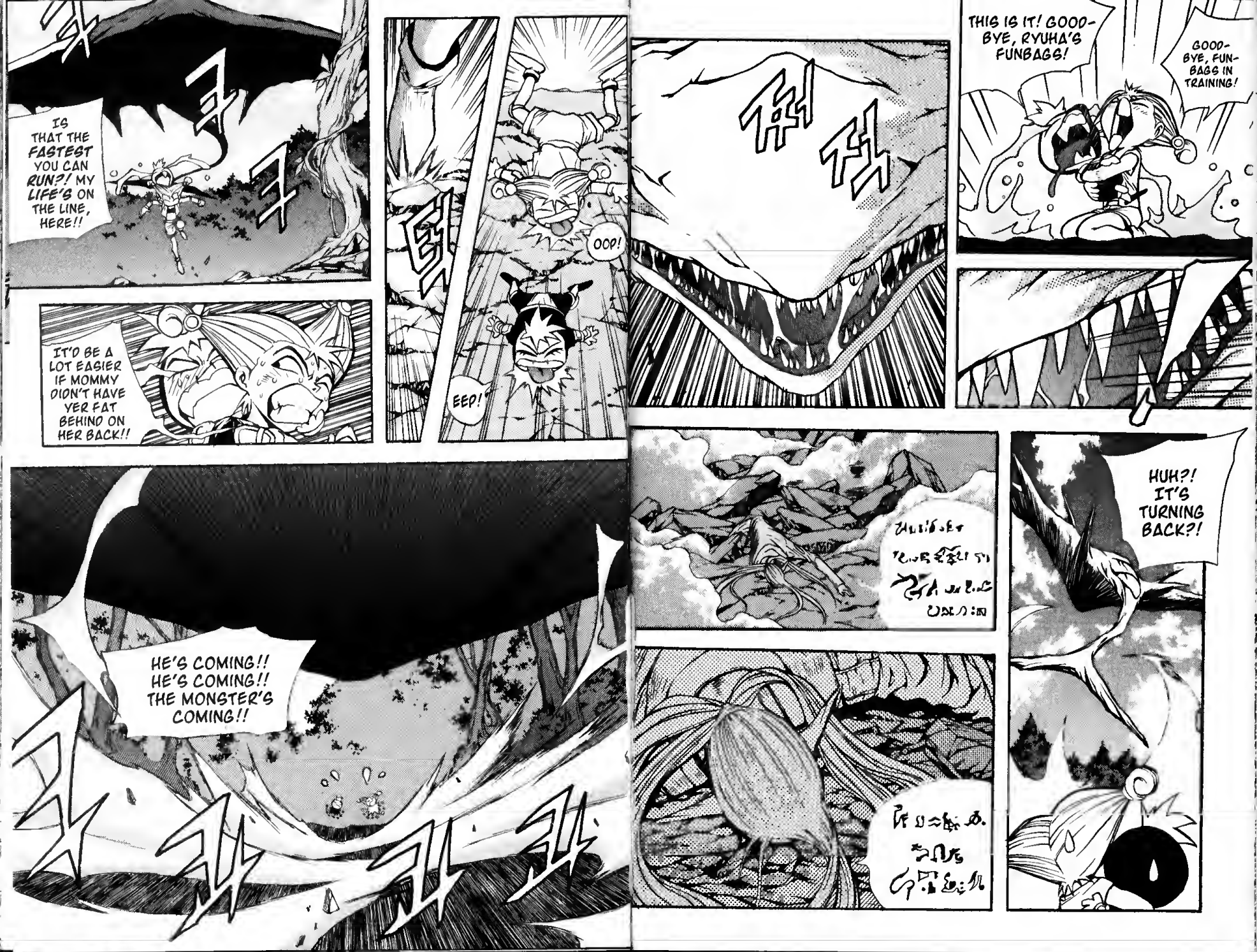
I...I
W-WASN'T
ABLE TO...
MUL...
TIPLY...
BROTHER!!
NO!!

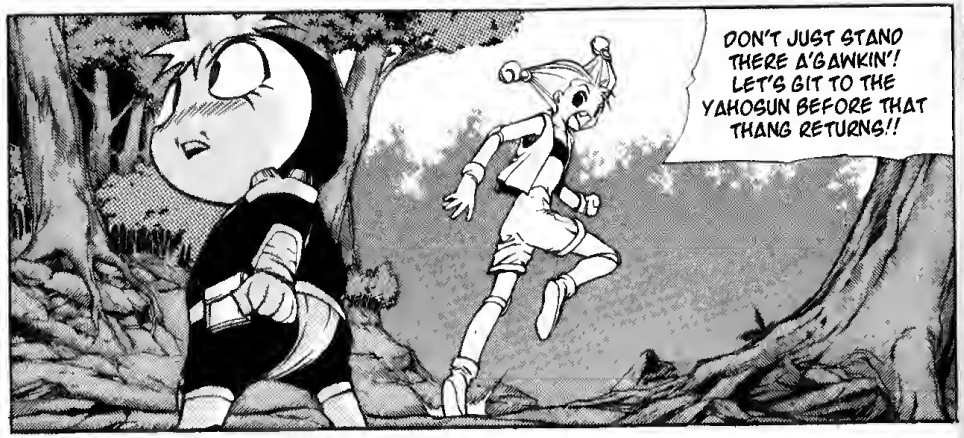


With this shocking realization, suddenly all of Kay's attention is focused on Soma.



SOON, THE FATE OF THE HERO WILL BE DETERMINED!!
I, SHIMME, AM THE SWORN PROTECTOR OF THE DIVINE GRACE! IT IS MY ANCHOR TO THIS EARTHLY PLANE!
LOOK! THE LAKE'S WATERS DARKEN AS WE SPEAK!
TIME BETRAYS US!! IF WE MISS THIS CHANCE, WE WILL REGRET IT FOR ALL ETERNITY!!
I SMELL THE COMING VIOLENCE IN THE AIR LIKE RAIN BEFORE A STORM. I FEAR WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ENGAGE OURSELVES IN THIS CONFLICT.


IS THAT THE FASTEST YOU CAN RUN?! MY LIFE'S ON THE LINE, HERE!!
IT'D BE A LOT EASIER IF MOMMY DIDN'T HAVE YER FAT BEHIND ON HER BACK!!
EEP!
OOP!
THIS IS IT! GOOD-BYE, RYUHA'S FUNBAGS!
GOOD-BYE, FUN-BAGS IN TRAINING!
HUH?! IT'S TURNING BACK?!
HE'S COMING!! HE'S COMING!! THE MONSTER'S COMING!!


DON'T JUST STAND THERE A'GAWKIN'! LET'S GIT TO THE YAHOSUN BEFORE THAT THANG RETURNS!!

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WHAT IS THAT?!

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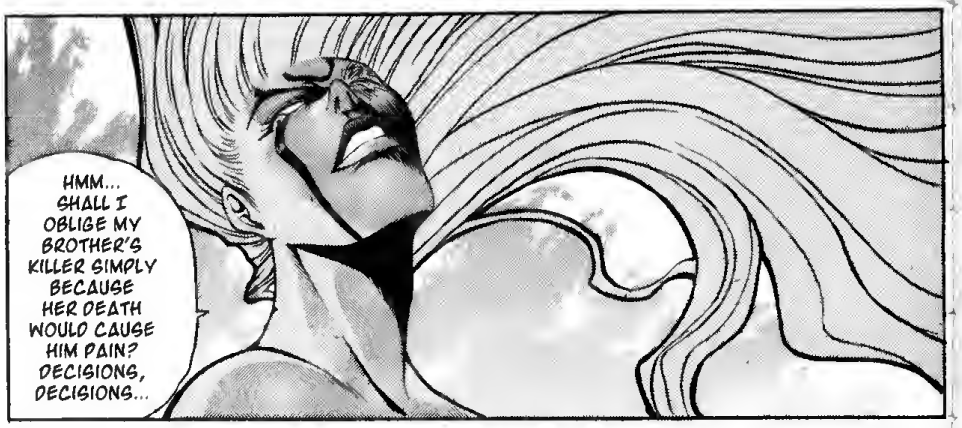
HUH...?!
MAKUMRANG...?!

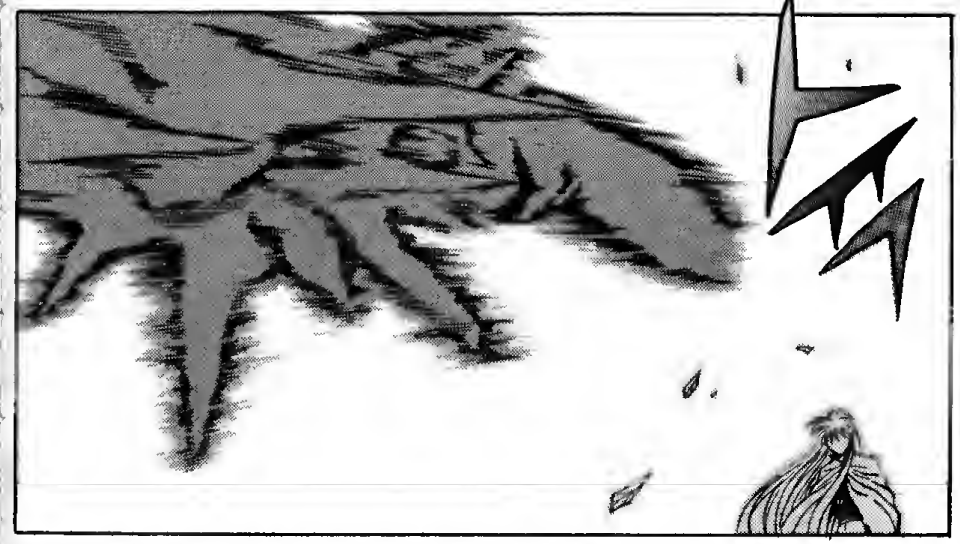
BLADE OF HEAVEN

GET UP, BROTHER!
POSSESSING THE BLADE IS MEANINGLESS IF YOU AREN'T HERE TO SHARE IT!
RISE, SPIRIT ICE!
SING TO THEM YOUR SWEET REQUIEM OF PAIN!!
YOU CAN'T DIE!
HUFF!
HUFF!
GET UP! PLEASE!!
IF YOU DIE-- I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THE FILTHY, STINKING MORTALS!! THEY'RE NOTHING BUT A PLAGUE TO ALL OF DEMONKIND!! I'LL KILL THEM...I'LL SQUASH THEM UNDERFOOT LIKE THE VERMIN THEY ARE!!
I'M LOOKING AT THE ONLY VERMIN THAT NEEDS SQUASHING!

!
I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED! I WILL NEVER FORGIVE!!
IT'S A DEMON SPIRIT ICE WALL!!
NO...I MUST LIVE TO AVENGE MY PEOPLE!!
EVERY BREATH I DRAW, IS ONE ROBBED FROM GRANDFATHER ANO-CHAEHA!!

THE ICE IS SPREADING AS IF IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!!
RYUHA--DON'T! THE MORE YOU CUT DEMON SPIRIT ICE, THE MORE IT'LL REGENERATE!
RYUHA!! NO!!
IT'S TOO LATE, BOY. ONCE THE ICE WRAPS ITS COLD EMBRACE AROUND YOU, IT WILL NEVER LET GO.
I NO LONGER CARE ABOUT THE BLADE. I THIRST ONLY FOR VENGEANCE! THE MOMENT YOU KILLED YANG, ALL YOUR LIVES BECAME FORFEIT!
I WILL KILL YOU ALL SLOWLY... AND PAIN-FULLY...
RYUHA...! SHE'S TRAPPED!
WAAAH! CRY ME A RIVER, SWEETHEART! JUST HOW IS THE WEATHER UP ON THAT HIGH HORSE OF YOURS, ANYWAY? HE WAS EVIL, HE GOT ORNERY, HE GOT HIS BUTT WHUPPED. END OF STORY. NOW... WHY DON'T YOU LET HER GO AND COME GET A TASTE OF WHAT HE GOT.
SOMA...! BE CARE-FUL...!

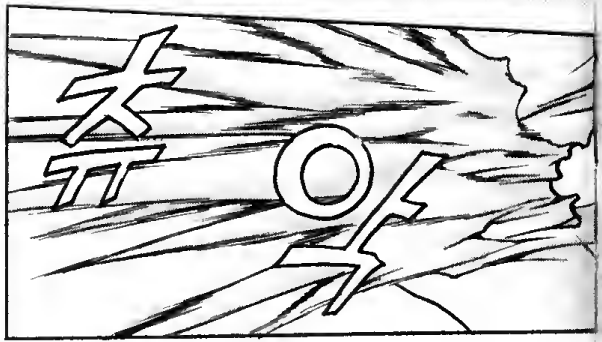

HMM... SHALL I OBLIGE MY BROTHER'S KILLER SIMPLY BECAUSE HER DEATH WOULD CAUSE HIM PAIN? DECISIONS, DECISIONS...

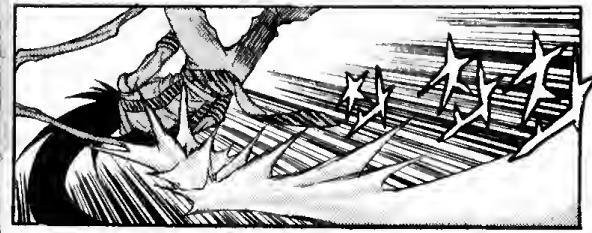


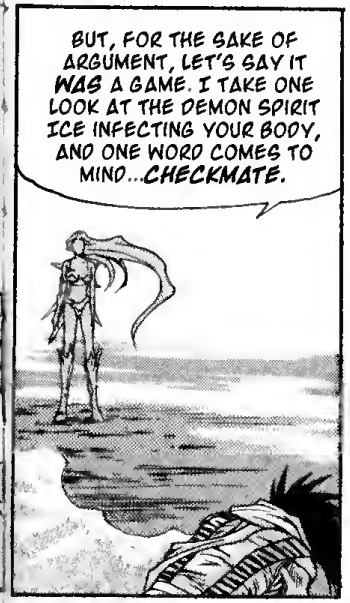
OKAY...PERHAPS I'LL ONLY TEAR OUT HER HEART *AFTER* I'VE *PULLED* OUT HER *TONGUE*. THAT WAY, YOU WON'T HEAR HER SCREAMS! AND THEY SAID I COULDN'T COMPROMISE...

THIS ISN'T A *GAME*, DEMON!

NO...IT *ISN'T*. YOU'LL REALIZE THAT SOON ENOUGH, BOY!

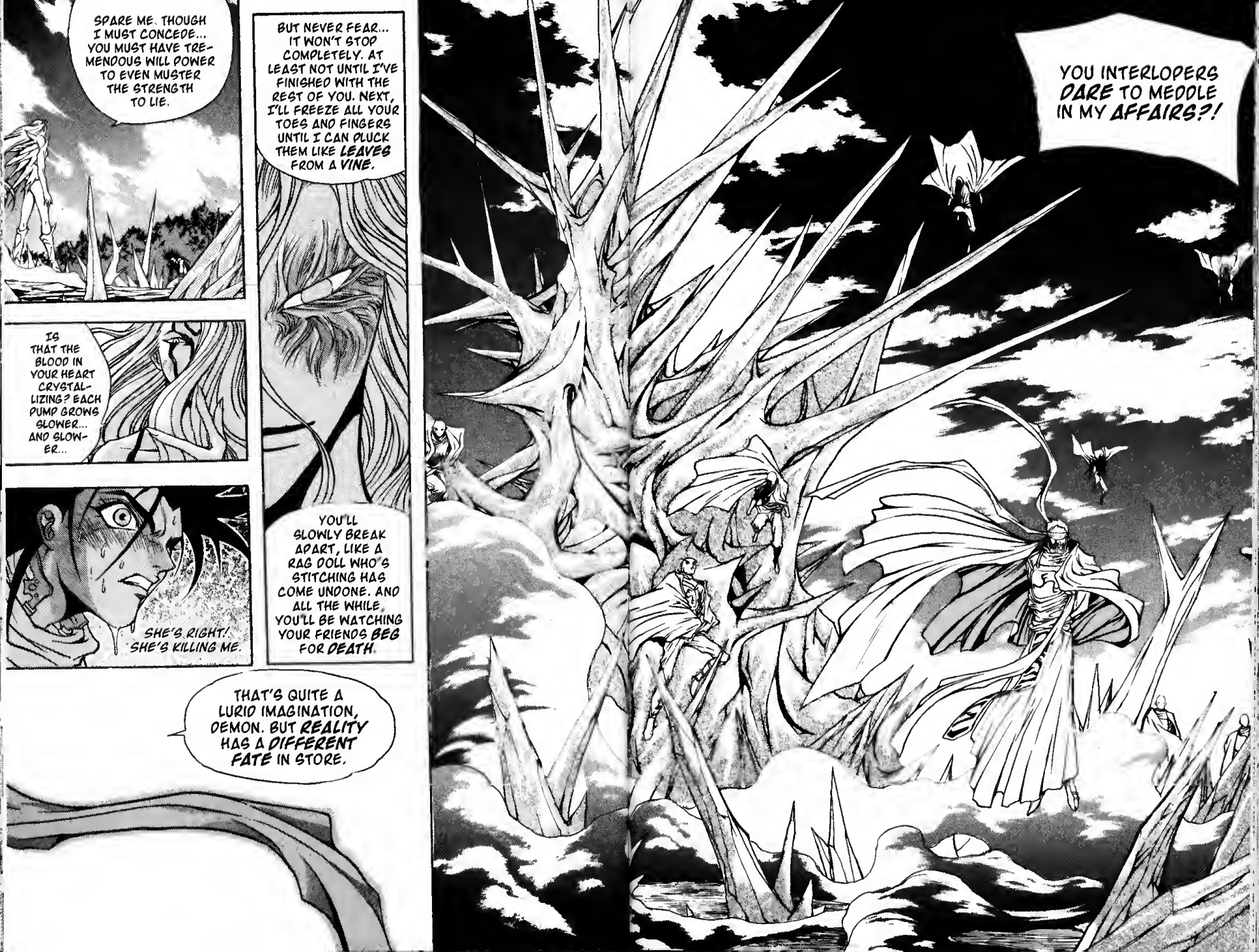





BUT, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, LET'S SAY IT *WAS* A GAME. I TAKE ONE LOOK AT THE DEMON SPIRIT ICE INFECTING YOUR BODY, AND ONE WORD COMES TO MIND...*CHECKMATE*.

SOMA!! CAN'T YOU STAND?! I'LL HELP YOU TO--

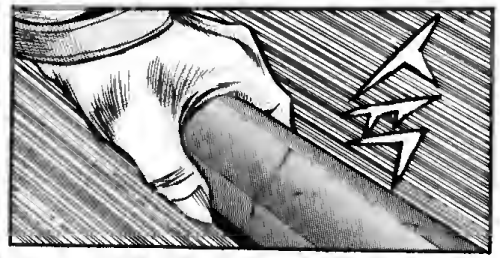
NO! AROOMEE... D-DON'T! DON'T COME ANY C-CLOSER...!
I'VE...GOT HER...JUST WHERE...I W-WANT HER...

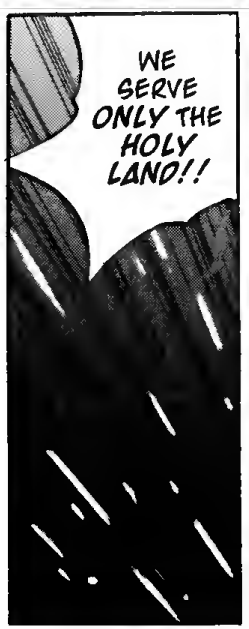

SPARE ME. THOUGH I MUST CONCEDE... YOU MUST HAVE TREMENDOUS WILL POWER TO EVEN MUSTER THE STRENGTH TO LIE.
BUT NEVER FEAR... IT WON'T STOP COMPLETELY. AT LEAST NOT UNTIL I'VE FINISHED WITH THE REST OF YOU. NEXT, I'LL FREEZE ALL YOUR TOES AND FINGERS UNTIL I CAN PLUCK THEM LIKE LEAVES FROM A VINE.
IS THAT THE BLOOD IN YOUR HEART CRYSTALLIZING? EACH PUMP GROWS SLOWER... AND SLOWER...
YOU'LL SLOWLY BREAK APART, LIKE A RAG DOLL WHO'S STITCHING HAS COME UNDONE. AND ALL THE WHILE, YOU'LL BE WATCHING YOUR FRIENDS BEG FOR DEATH.
SHE'S RIGHT! SHE'S KILLING ME.
THAT'S QUITE A LURID IMAGINATION, DEMON. BUT REALITY HAS A DIFFERENT FATE IN STORE.
YOU INTERLOPERS DARE TO MEDDLE IN MY AFFAIRS?!

WHOA... THOSE GUYS ARE ALL KINDS OF FREAKY! WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS, ANYWAY?! THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE MONSTERS OR HUMANS...!
THEY ARE THE WILD BEAST CLAN.
THE WILD WHO NOW...?
THEY'RE AN ANCIENT RACE RUMORED TO HAVE GONE EXTINCT MANY YEARS AGO. BUT YET HERE THEY ARE, STANDING BEFORE US. NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS DID I THINK THIS POSSIBLE!
THIS PLACE IS HOLY, DEMON! NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO COMMIT MURDER HERE!
RAARGH!!

I SHALL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY A BLIND OLD MAN AND HIS LAPDOGS!
FOOLISH DEMON...!!
HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE!! SHE'S MINE!!

WE, THE WILD BEAST CLAN, FEAR NOT DEATH!!




WE SERVE ONLY THE HOLY LAND!!

OFFENDERS SHALL BE PUNISHED

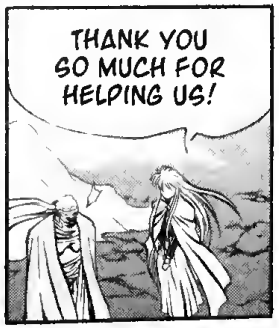
SINGULARLY, WE ARE WEAK...

...BUT COLLECTIVELY, OUR POWER IS IMMEASURABLE!!

WHY?!
YOU, TOO, ARE ONLY HALF-HUMAN! YOUR KIND IS SCORNED BY MORTALS! SO WHY DO YOU HELP THEM?!
BECAUSE...
...THOUGH OUR OUTER APPEARANCE MAY SAY OTHERWISE... IN OUR HEARTS, WE ARE COMPLETELY HUMAN!!
THIS WORLD...
...IS TOO BEAUTIFUL TO ALLOW YOU DEMON SCUM TO DESTROY IT!!

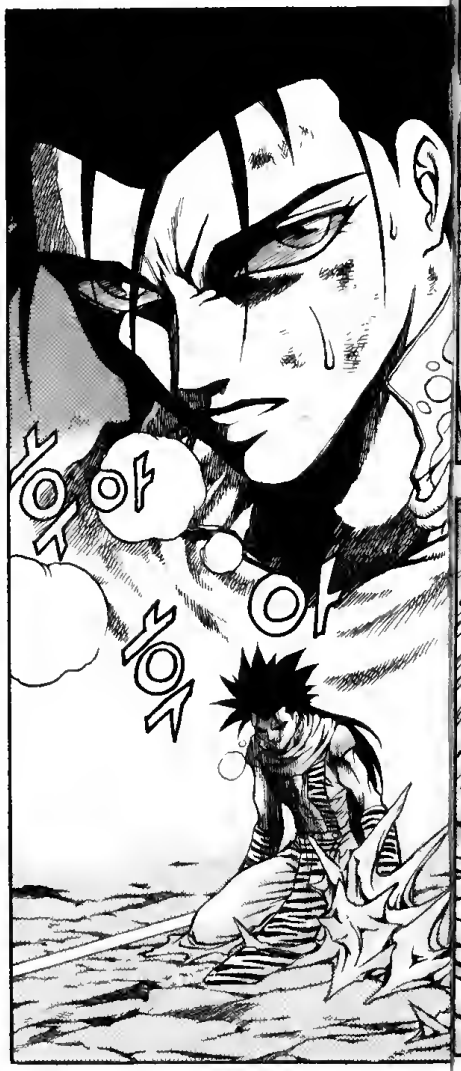
WHEN THE SUN RESTS ON THE HORIZON, THE DIVINE GRACE WILL BE BORN! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT...
...FOR SO LONG...!

FINALLY...--WHAT I'VE ONLY IMAGINED WILL BE REALITY!


THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING US!

WE DO WHAT WE MUST. NOW...I ADVISE THAT YOU LEAVE THIS DANGEROUS PLACE.

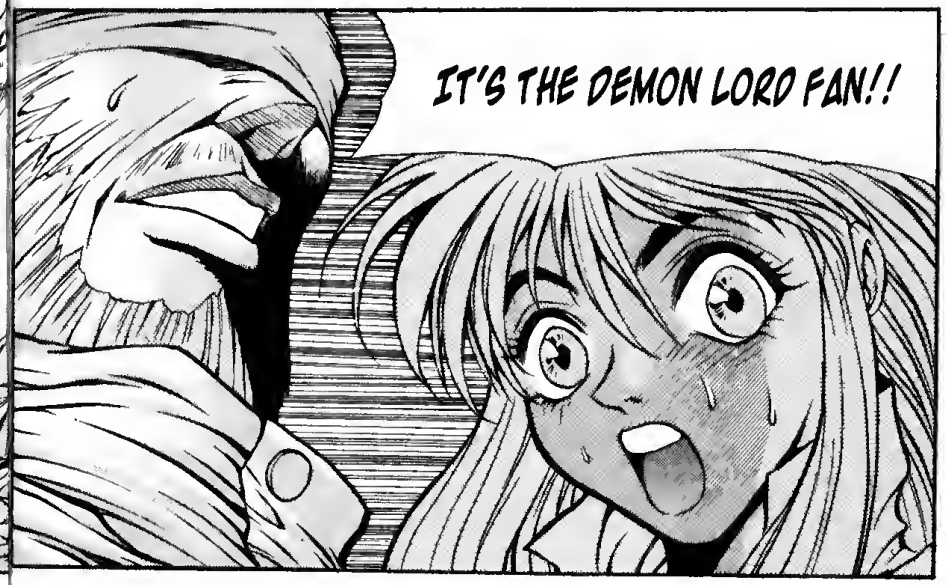
BUT...WHAT ABOUT SOMA?! HE'S STILL...
SOMA...?

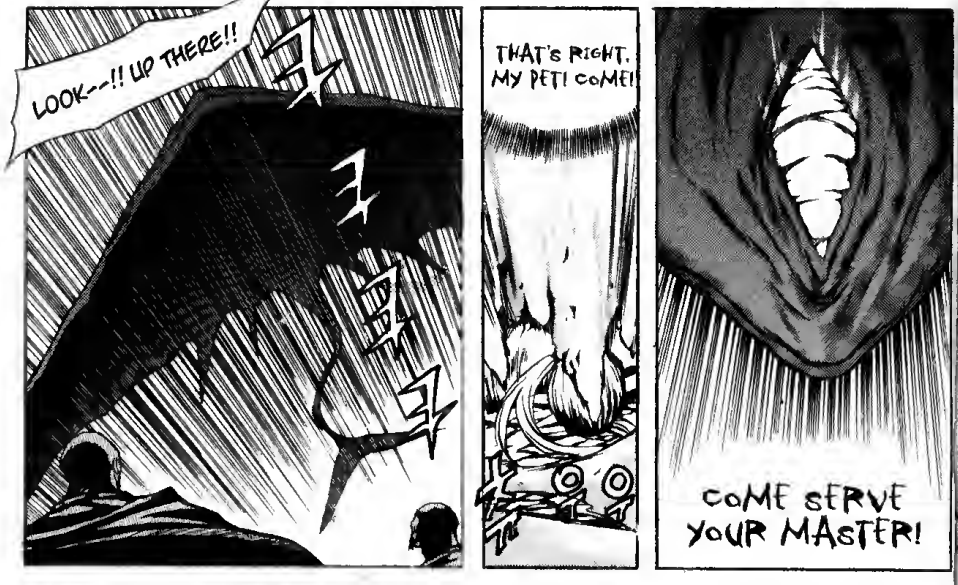

NO!
NO!

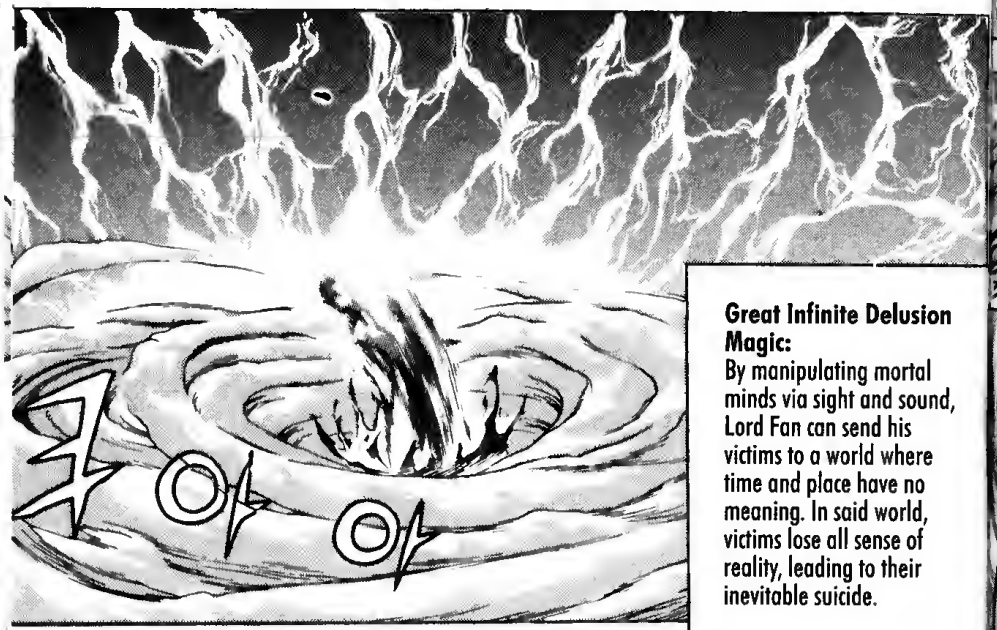
YOU ARE TOO FULL OF YOURSELF, OLD MAN. NO ONE WILL GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!

WHO IS THAT?!
WHO ARE YOU?!

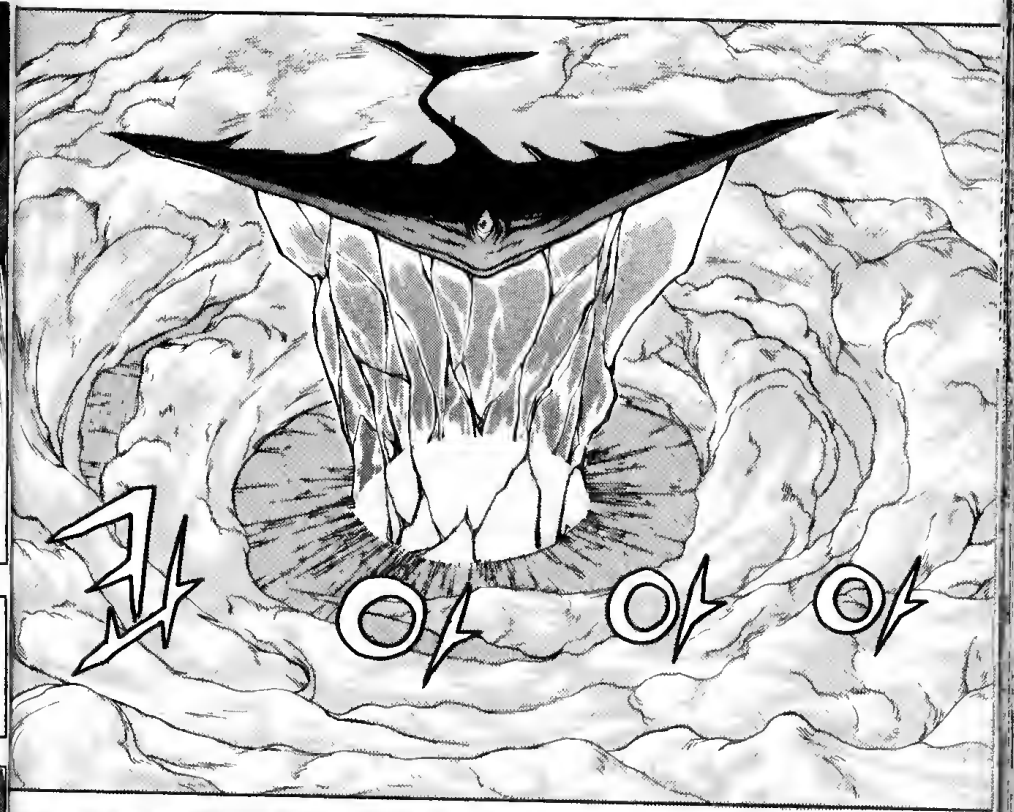
DON'T YOU KNOW? ONLY A DEMON LORD HAS THE ABILITY TO INSTANTANEOUSLY DIVIDE HIMSELF INTO HIS DEMON SPIRIT!


IT'S THE DEMON LORD FAN!!





Great Infinite Delusion Magic:
By manipulating mortal minds via sight and sound, Lord Fan can send his victims to a world where time and place have no meaning. In said world, victims lose all sense of reality, leading to their inevitable suicide.



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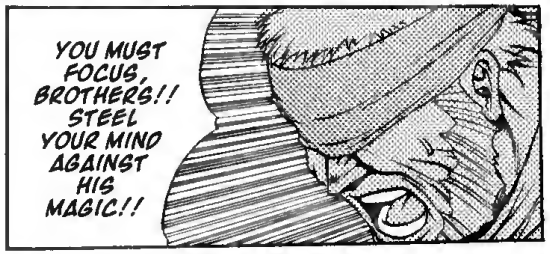
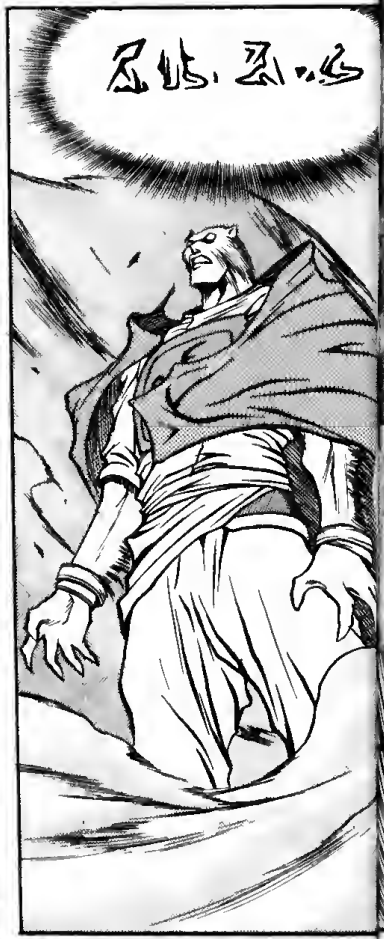
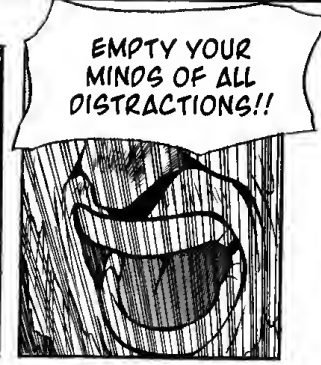
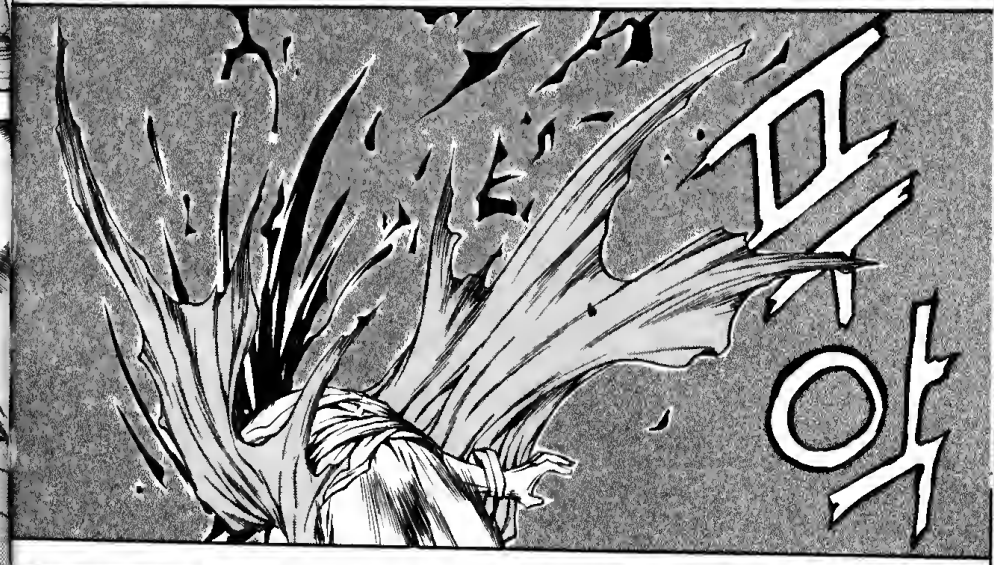

YOU MUST FOCUS, BROTHERS!! STEEL YOUR MIND AGAINST HIS MAGIC!!



YOU MUST FIGHT IT!
FOCUS!!
AAAAAH!!


EMPTY YOUR MINDS OF ALL DISTRACTIONS!!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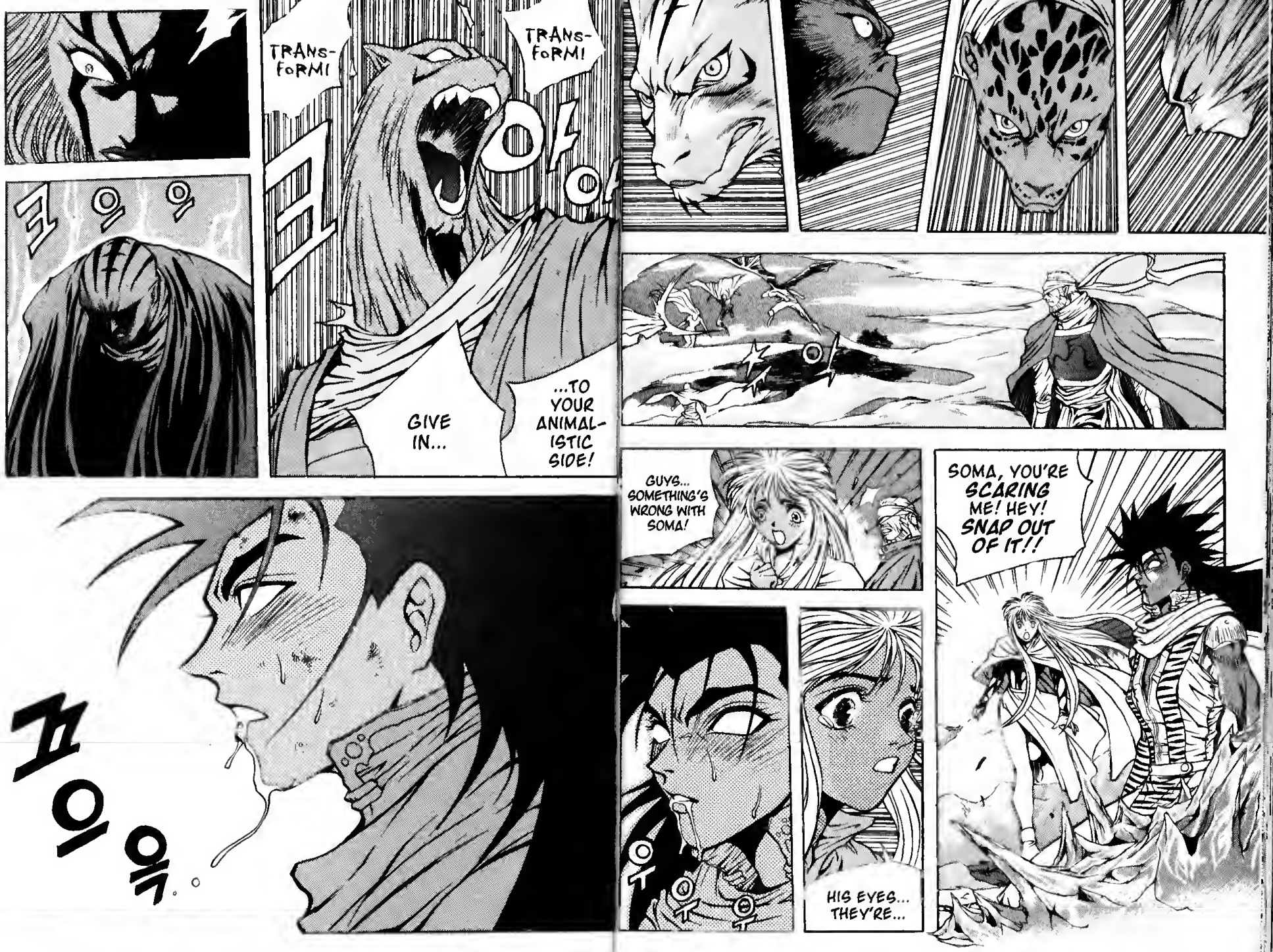
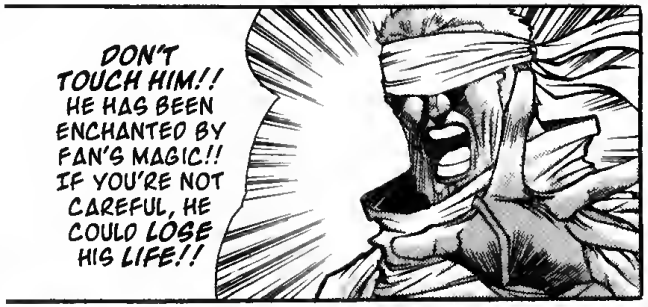
OH, NO!!

TRANSFORM! CHANGE INTO YOUR SHIMA FORMS!


TRANS-FORM!
TRANS-FORM!
GIVE IN...
...TO YOUR ANIMAL-ISTIC SIDE!
GUYS... SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH SOMA!
SOMA, YOU'RE SCARING ME! HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT!!
HIS EYES... THEY'RE...

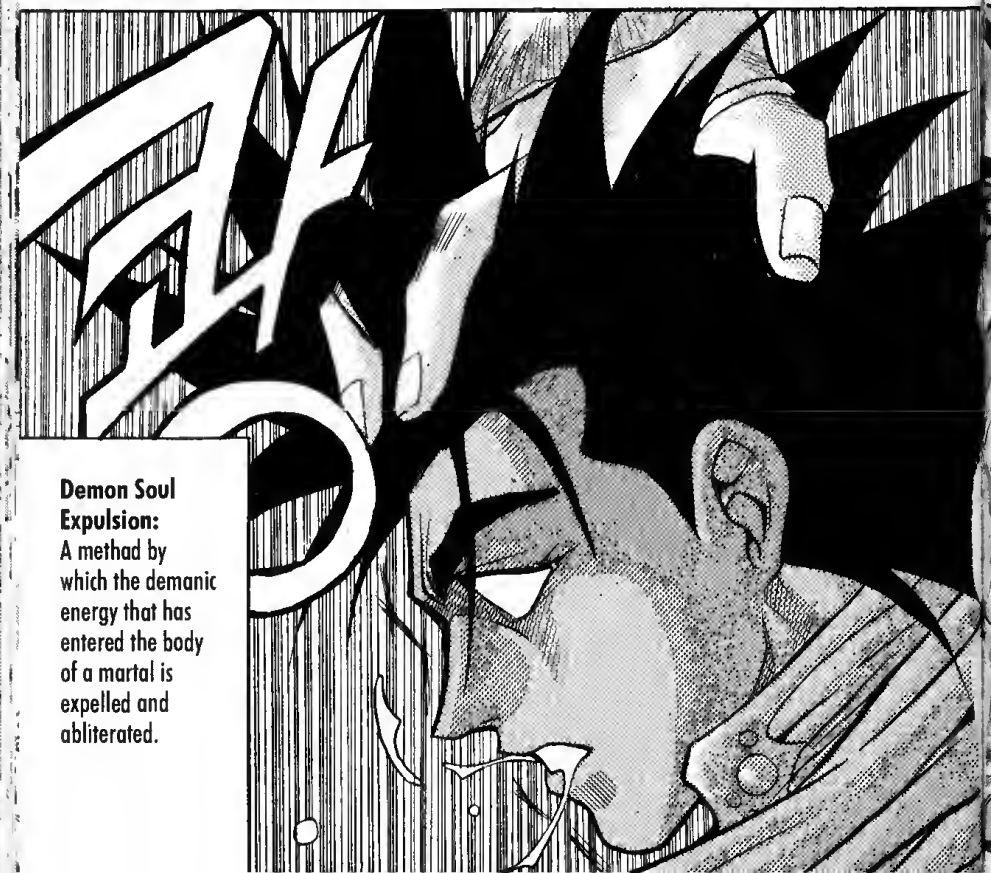

DON'T TOUCH HIM!! HE HAS BEEN ENCHANTED BY FAN'S MAGIC!! IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, HE COULD LOSE HIS LIFE!!

THE SPELL IS INEFFECTIVE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS!

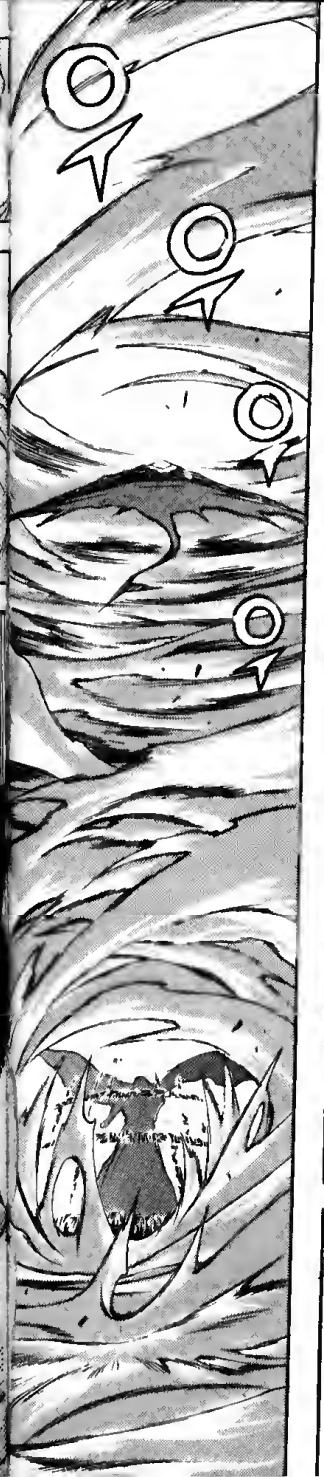
OH, NO...! NOT ANOTHER COMA...!

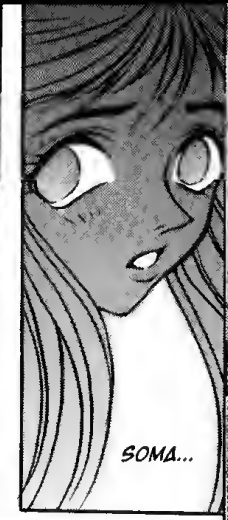
WE MUST SET UP A PERIMETER! QUICKLY! HEXAGON FORMATION !!

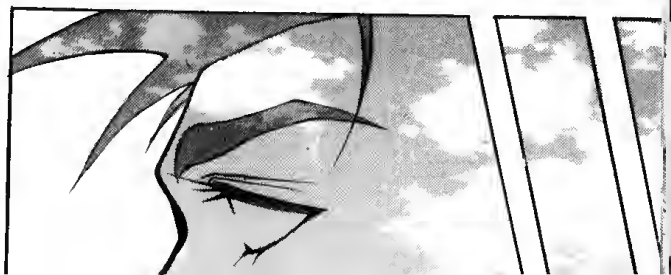
THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION!



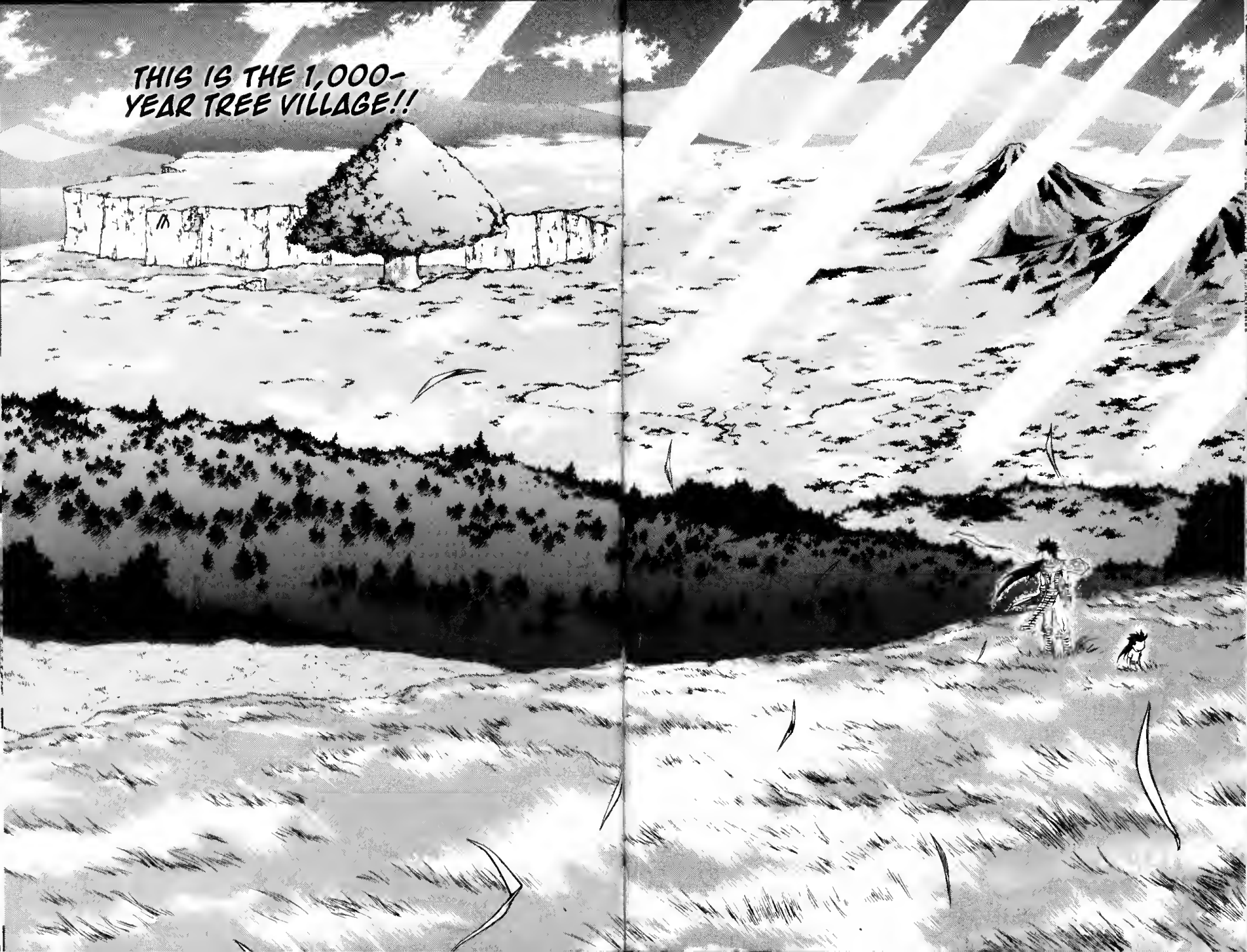
Demon Soul Expulsion: A methad by which the demanic energy that has entered the body of a martal is expelled and abliterated.







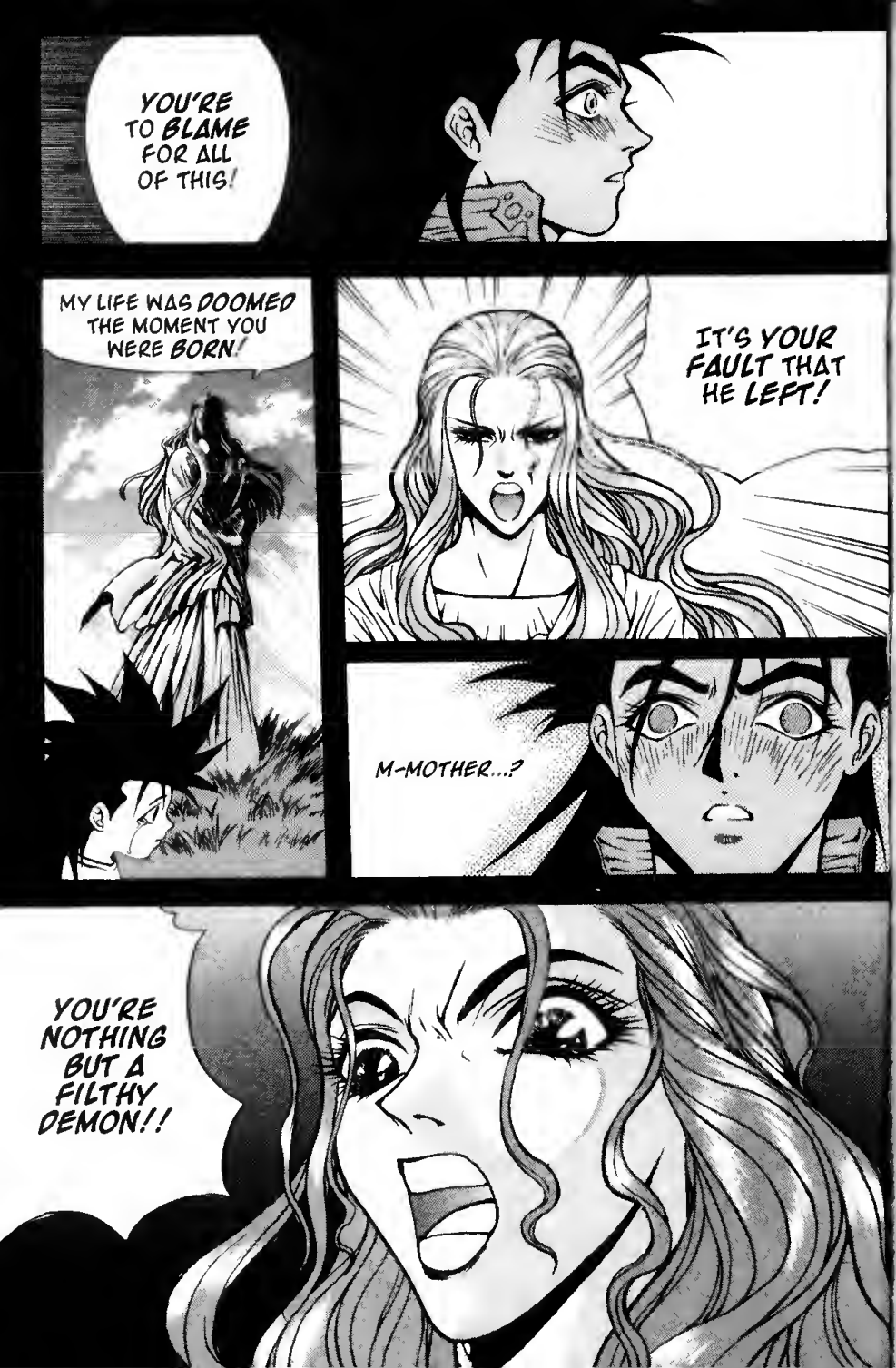
I CAN'T...I CAN'T PENETRATE HIS MIND! HIS INNER MIND'S BARRIERS ARE INCREDIBLY STRONG!
HUH...? HE PASSED RIGHT THROUGH ME...! H-HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE...?
DAD! DON'T GO! I'M SORRY!! PLEASE...!!
DAD!!
WHERE...WHERE AM I...? WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
OUCH!
WAIT...I KNOW THIS BOY...
...AND THIS PLACE...!
I-I'LL BECOME STRONG...! I'LL T-TRAIN EVERY DAY! JUST...JUST DON'T GO! D-DON'T...SOB...SOB...


THIS IS THE 1,000-
YEAR TREE VILLAGE!!

THERE'S A POWERFUL, UNKNOWN ENERGY WITHIN HIS BODY! IT'S ACTUALLY PUSHING ME OUT!
HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE ...?!
FRANKLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WIELDER OF THE BLADE COULDN'T WARD OFF SUCH A MEASLY SPELL! IT'S JUST TOO FUNNY...!
ONLY THE STRONGEST WARRIOR SHOULD WIELD THE BLADE! THE FACT THAT THAT WIMP IS THE CHOSEN ONE HAS GOT TO BE SOME KINDA COSMIC PRACTICAL JOKE!
WHAT SAY YOU, MR. HAIRY FACE?

I KNOW NOT OF THE BLADE--NOR DO I CARE!
SAY WHAT?! YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE BLADE?!
OUR SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT THIS SACRED LAND. NOW--STATE YOUR NAME AND PURPOSE!
NAME? KAY, FROM THE TORPEDO CLAN OF THE EASTERN RACE! PURPOSE? AT THE MOMENT, IT'S WIPIN' THE FLOOR WITH CHATTERING MONKEYS...
...THAT MOUTH OFF AT ME!!
STORM ATTACK!!

IT IS CLEAR NOW, RASH ONE, THAT THE FACT THAT YOU WERE NOT AFFECTED BY LORD FAN'S DELUSION MAGIC PROVES THAT YOU ARE A DEMON! I'VE ALWAYS HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR RACE!!
SPRY LI'L TREE HUGGER, AIN'T 'CHA?!
AND IF DEMON YOU ARE--YOU WILL BE PUNISHED LIKE ONE!!
HA! YOU'RE KIDDIN', RIGHT?! ANY WARRIOR WORTH THE STEEL IN HIS SWORD KNOWS HOW TO DEFLECT A PUNY DELUSION SPELL!
DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT I, WHO HAS ENDURED THE DARKEST MURDEROUS ENERGY AND THOUSANDS OF TRAINING SESSIONS, AM EVEN ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THAT PUNK?!
GIG'S UP, BOYS! I'M GONNA KNOCK THE FLEAS OFF YOUR HAIRY HIDES!
AFTER YOU FEEL THE WRATH OF MY TORPEDO ATTACK...
...YOU'LL BE BEGGIN' ME TO PUT YA OUT OF YOUR MISERY!

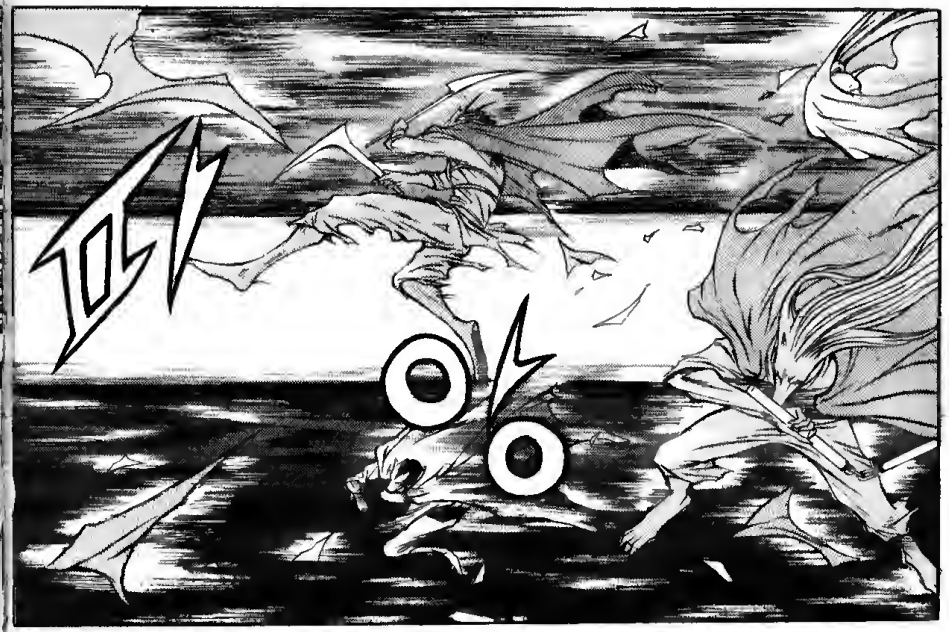


BLADE OF HEAVEN

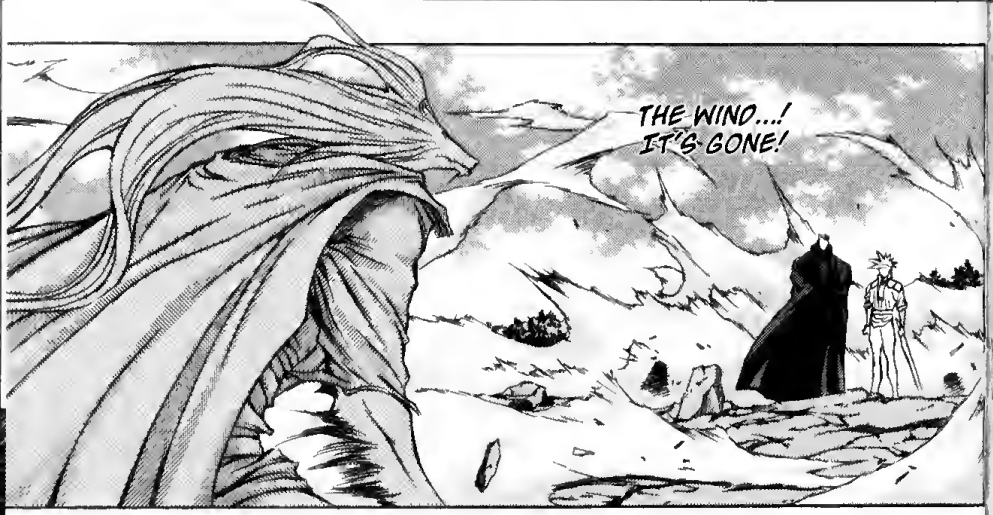
SHE'S RIGHT! YOU MAKE EVERYONE AROUND YOU MISERABLE!
OLD MAN...?
HE'S A BLIGHT ON OUR VILLAGE! WE MUST KICK HIM OUT!!
HE'LL BE THE DEATH OF US ALL!!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M JUST AN ORPHANED DEMON THAT DESTROYS ALL BEFORE ME!!
!!
NO...NO! THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
THE VILLAGERS...? BUT AREN'T THEY DEAD...?

KAY!! THAT'S ENOUGH!!

AW...! I WAS JUST GETTIN' INTO IT!
HIS ENERGY... IT'S LIKE BEING TRAPPED IN A POWERFUL, SURGING WAVE!



BUT YET, EVEN AS POWERFUL AS IT IS, IT FLOWS LIKE A LIGHT WIND!


THE WIND...! IT'S GONE!

WITH JUST A SIMPLE HAND MOTION, HE BRUSHED US ALL BACK...AND JUST AS QUICKLY, HE MADE IT DISSIPATE!

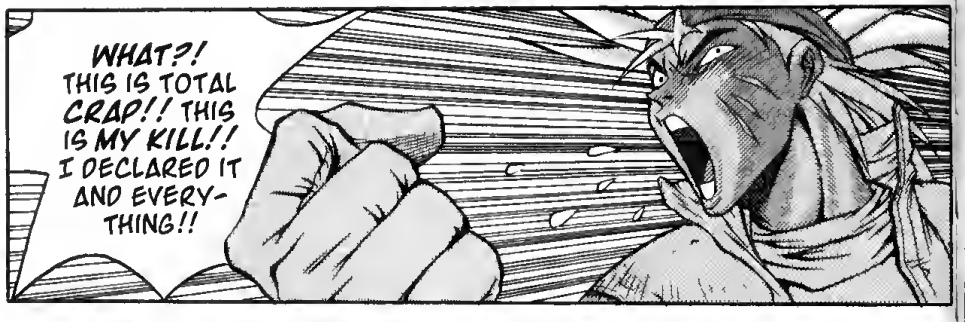
EVERY-ONE, BE CAREFUL!
HE IS AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL WARRIOR!

MASTER! WHAT GIVES?!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO POUND 'EM!!

MURDER WITHOUT MOTIVE IS A SENSE-LESS ACT, KAY!

BEAST MEN... HEAR ME! WE DO NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN A POINTLESS QUARREL WITH YOU!
WE MERELY HAVE BUSINESS WITH THAT YOUNG MAN...AND HUMBLY REQUEST THAT YOU STEP ASIDE.

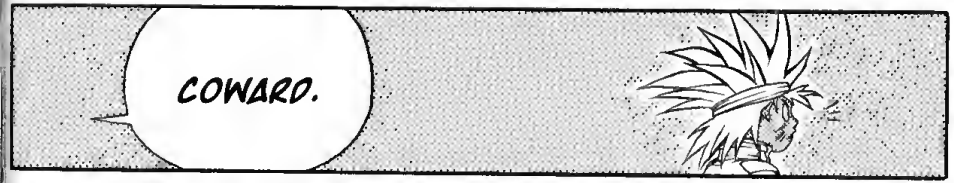
RIGHT... THE HARD WAY, THEN.

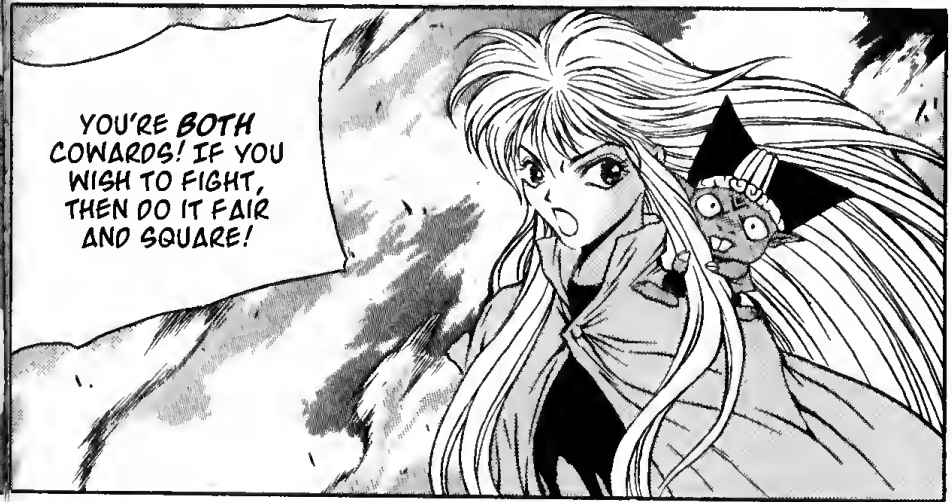

WHAT?! THIS IS TOTAL CRAP!! THIS IS MY KILL!! I DECLARED IT AND EVERY-THING!!

PRIORITIES, KAY! OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN OUR CLOAKED OBSERVER?

I KNOW NOT HIS PURPOSE FOR BEING HERE... BUT I DO KNOW HE WILL BE OUR GREATEST OBSTACLE! SO CONSERVE YOUR ENERGY FOR THAT FIGHT!

I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE. YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT!
WHY SHOULD I WASTE TIME WITH LOWLY WARRIORS! HE MAKES ONE FALSE MOVE AND I'LL--


COWARD.


YOU'RE BOTH COWARDS! IF YOU WISH TO FIGHT, THEN DO IT FAIR AND SQUARE!

EH?
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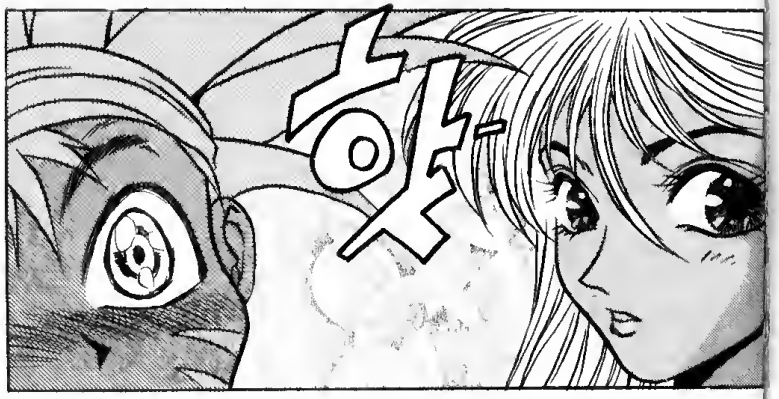
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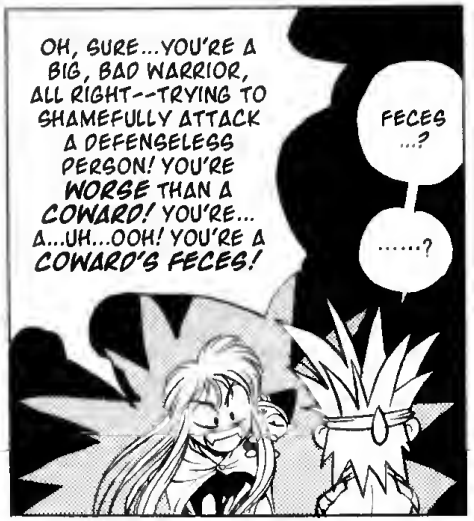
OH, SURE...YOU'RE A BIG, BAD WARRIOR, ALL RIGHT--TRYING TO SHAMEFULLY ATTACK A DEFENSELESS PERSON! YOU'RE WORSE THAN A COWARD! YOU'RE... A...UH...OOH! YOU'RE A COWARD'S FECES!
FECES ...?
.....?

OH...I GET IT. YOU MUST BE IN LOVE WITH THAT CLOWN.
MAN... YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY...

TAKE YOUR MITTS OFF ME!!

I SWEAR TO YOU...IF YOU TOUCH ONE HAIR ON SOMA'S HEAD...I WILL PERSONALLY DESTROY YOU!

SIGH... WHY DO THE HOT ONES ALWAYS FALL FOR DUDS?
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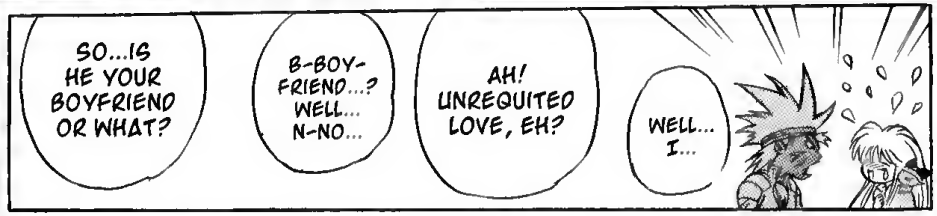
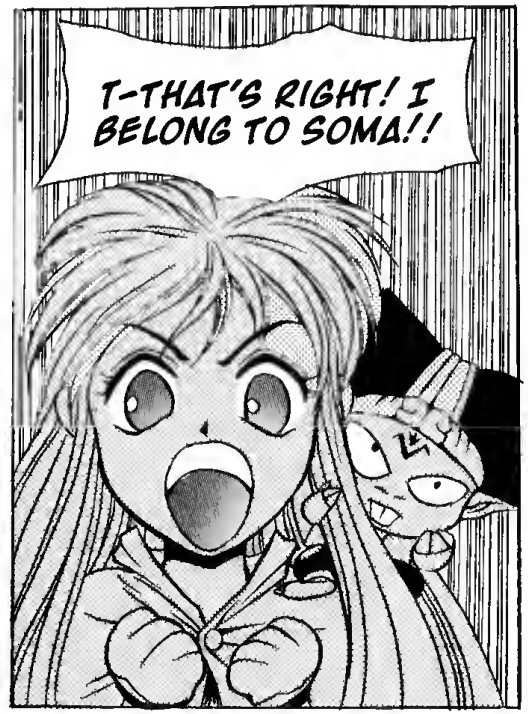
N-NO! DON'T!!

DAMN, BABY... YOU REALLY FELL HARD FOR THIS LOSER, HUH?

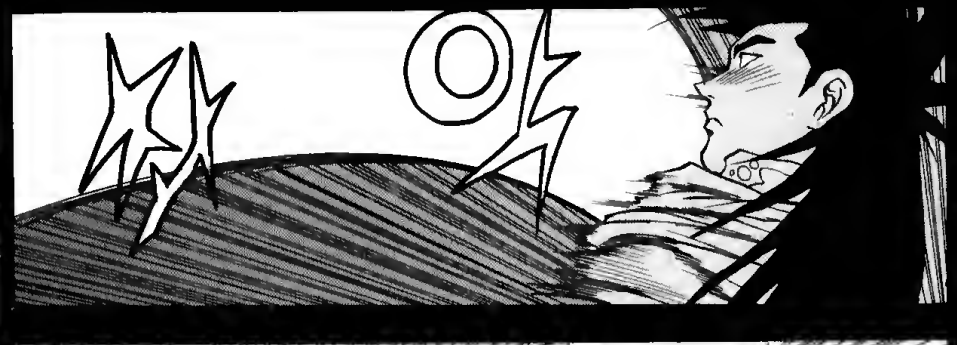

SO...IS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND OR WHAT?
B-BOY-FRIEND...? WELL... N-NO...
AH! UNREQUITED LOVE, EH?
WELL... I...

I-IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...!
MASHER, EH?!


T-THAT'S RIGHT! I BELONG TO SOMA!!

BACK OFF, PLAYBOY! AROOMEE BELONGS TO SOMA! SO HANDS OFF!
AND WHAT ARE YOU AGAIN?

LIES...ALL LIES! THIS ISN'T WHAT HAPPENED!
NO!! IT'S A TRICK!! I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE-- BUT YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
HEH HEH... YOU CAN'T KILL ME!
WAIT...! YOU'RE...
THAT'S RIGHT, CHUMPWAD! I'M THE MAN IN THE MIRROR!!
IT MIGHT NOT BE FAIR... NOR WHAT YOU DESIRE...BUT REST ASSURED-- IT'S ALL TRUE.



EXCEPT THAT'S NOT COMPLETELY TRUE, IS IT? SURE, ON THE OUTSIDE, YOU'RE A WISECRACKING BUFFOON...

...BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S AN ACT, DON'T WE? AT THE CORE OF YOUR SOUL GESTATES A FIENDISH *APPETITE* TO *KILL*. ON THE OUTSIDE, YOU SHED TEARS FOR THE THROATS YOU LAY OPEN, BUT INSIDE, YOU REVEL IN YOUR BLOODLETTING. DON'T YOU SEE? *YOU* ARE THE COSTUME. *I* AM THE *REAL YOU!*

NO...IT CAN'T BE!

SHUT YOUR LYING MOUTH!!

I...

...WILL...

...KILL YOU!!

OF COURSE YOU WILL! AFTER ALL, IT'S WHAT YOU DO BEST! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE IN YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!

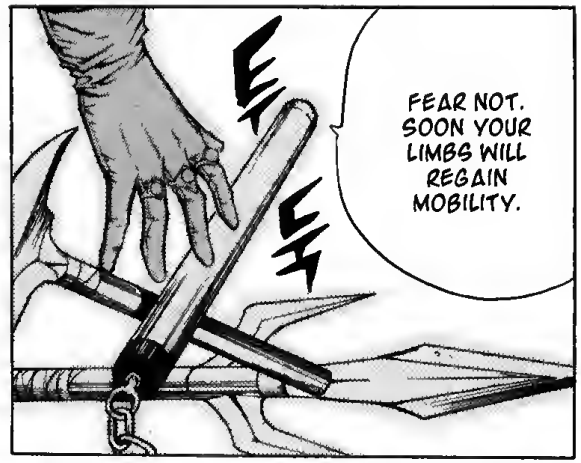
THE TRUTH...

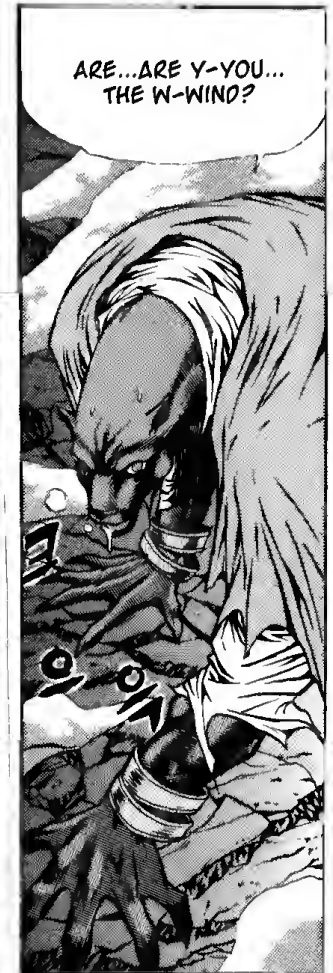
BECAUSE YOU *KNOW* THE *TRUTH* ABOUT YOURSELF! HOW CAN YOU LOVE OTHERS WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN LOVE *YOURSELF*, YOU PATHETIC *HYPOCRITE?!*

K-KILL... GONNA KILL... Y-YOU...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO DIE!!
WATCHING YOU PUT ON THAT PHONY TOUGH GUY ACT MAKES ME SICK!!

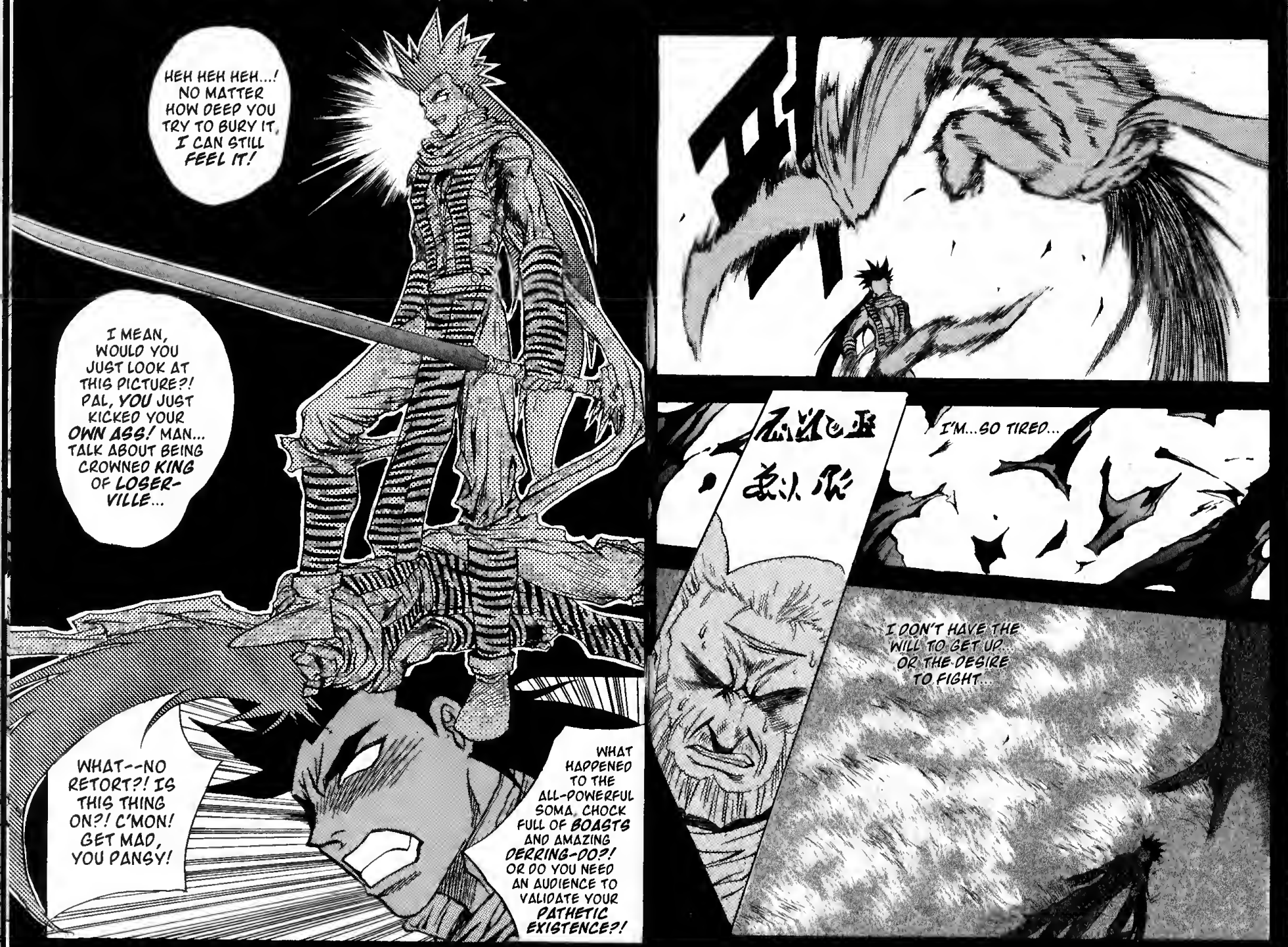
EVEN THOUGH WE CAN SENSE THE STORM COMING--WE STILL CAN'T SEE IT!!
ONE MOMENT, HE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF US--BUT THE NEXT...
HE IS...
HE DISAPPEARS WITHOUT A TRACE!

...LIKE A FORCE OF NATURE!


FEAR NOT. SOON YOUR LIMBS WILL REGAIN MOBILITY.


ARE...ARE Y-YOU... THE W-WIND?

I AM FROM THE ASTROLABE CLAN OF THE EASTERN RACE.
SOME REFER TO US AS THE VIOLENT WIND-BEINGS OF THE ASTRAL BODY.


HEH HEH HEH...! NO MATTER HOW DEEP YOU TRY TO BURY IT, I CAN STILL FEEL IT!
I MEAN, WOULD YOU JUST LOOK AT THIS PICTURE?! PAL, YOU JUST KICKED YOUR OWN ASS! MAN... TALK ABOUT BEING CROWNED KING OF LOSER-VILLE...
WHAT--NO RETORT?! IS THIS THING ON?! C'MON! GET MAD, YOU PANSY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ALL-POWERFUL SOMA, CHOCK FULL OF BOASTS AND AMAZING DERRING-DO?! OR DO YOU NEED AN AUDIENCE TO VALIDATE YOUR PATHETIC EXISTENCE?!
I'M...SO TIRED...
I DON'T HAVE THE WILL TO GET UP OR THE DESIRE TO FIGHT...

DON'T GIMME THAT FORTUNE COOKIE BUNK!! AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER, HOW CAN YOU BE THIS WAY?!
I WILL PROTECT SOMA!
SOMA, YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR PROMISE! YOU ALREADY ARE THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN!
SOMA!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR CRIME, THIEF!!

RISE, SOMA!!
RISE AND FACE YOUR FEARS!!

THAT VOICE...? WHO...?

HEY!! THIS IS A PRIVATE SOUL-REAVING!! NO OMINOUS VOICES ALLOWED!! AND JUST HOW DID YOU BREAK THE DELUSION MAGIC BARRIER, ANYWAY?!

EVERYONE...PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I ONLY WANT TO REST.

FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES, SOMA!
VICTORY AND DEFEAT ARE MOOT POINTS!

A TRULY STRONG MAN IS ONE WHO DOES NOT SQUANDER THE FAITH OF HIS LOVING FRIENDS!
HEY, OMNIPOTENT ONE! HOW 'BOUT SHOWING ME YOUR CORPOREAL NECK--SO I CAN SNAP IT?!
YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER ME! I AM ONE WHO EXISTS-- AND YET DOESN'T!
I AM A FORESEER WAITING FOR THE PROPHESIED FATE!
WAY TO VAGUE IT UP, PAL. LOOK-- I'M THE LANDLORD OF THIS HALLUCINATION-- AND YOU ARE HEREBY EVICTED!
SOMA... OPEN THE EYES OF YOUR HEART! THIS IS MERELY AN ILLUSION!
YOU MUST FIND THE REAL YOU! YOU MUST TEAR DOWN THE WALLS AROUND YOU!!
THE REAL ME...?
INCREDIBLE...
I SIMPLY CANNOT REACH HIM...!
THE HARDER I PUSH AGAINST HIS PSYCHIC BARRIERS, THE MORE HE RESISTS!

YES...HE'S RIGHT. THIS IS NOTHING BUT AN ILLUSION.
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO FEAR.
MY REASON FOR EXISTING IS TO PROTECT THOSE I HOLD DEAR!
WRONGO! I AM THE WARDEN OF THIS JAIL! YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS PRISON!!
I EXIST...
...TO PROTECT MY FRIENDS!

I WILL NOT BE AFRAID!!

...!!
!!
KAY!! TAKE COVER!!
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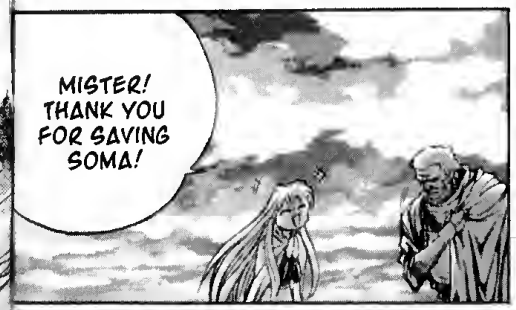
UNH...HNH...


MISTER! THANK YOU FOR SAVING SOMA!

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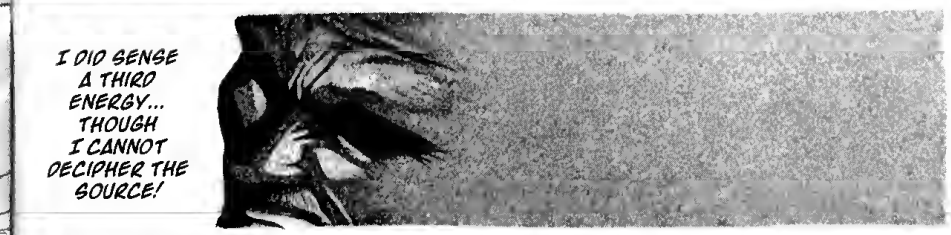
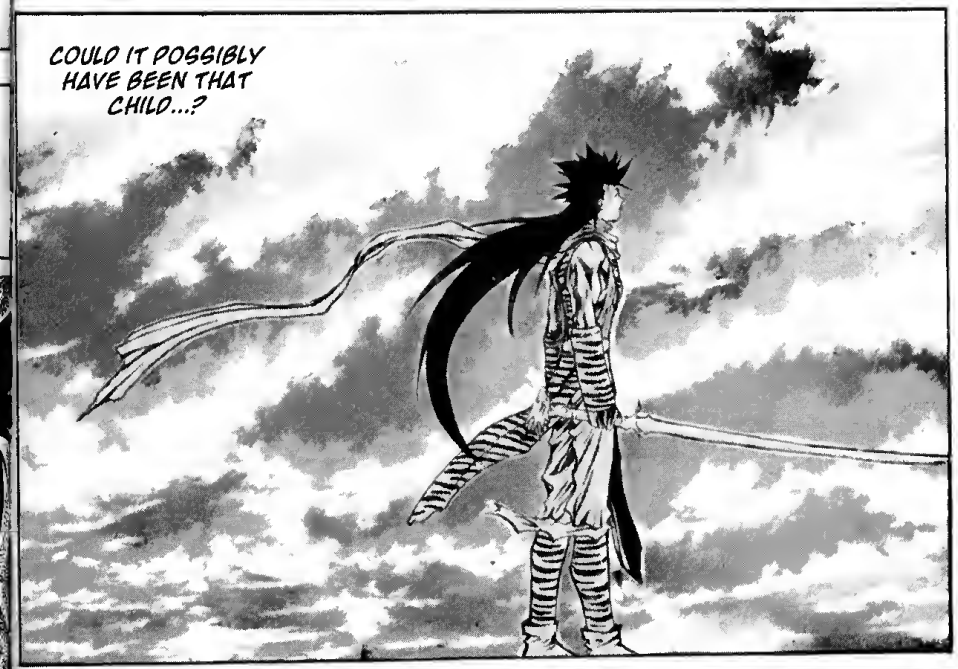
THERE IS NOTHING...TO THANK ME FOR. IT WASN'T I... WHO RESCUED... YOUR FRIEND.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT HE CAME OUT OF THAT SPELL OF HIS OWN ACCORD.


I DID SENSE A THIRD ENERGY... THOUGH I CANNOT DECIPHER THE SOURCE!


COULD IT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN THAT CHILD...?

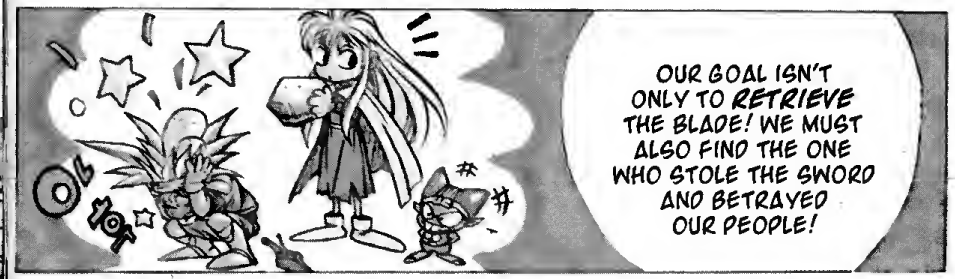
SOMA! YOU'RE BACK!

YAAY! AND HE EVEN DESTROYED LORD FAN!

THE VOICE IN THE ILLUSION WHO WAS IT?

YOU SNEAKY BASTARD! I LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND AND YOU LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK!
WELL, I'M READY FOR YA, NOW! I'M GONNA KICK YOUR--
HUH?
TELL ME... WHAT KNOW YOU OF KING PACHUN?

WHERE DID YOU PROCURE THE BLADE OF HEAVEN?
.....


OUR GOAL ISN'T ONLY TO RETRIEVE THE BLADE! WE MUST ALSO FIND THE ONE WHO STOLE THE SWORD AND BETRAYED OUR PEOPLE!

HUH? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

WELL...? DO YOU KNOW KING PACHUN...?
WHAT?
OR MORE ACCURATELY, DO YOU KNOW MY FELLOW EASTERN RACE BROTHER?
DUDE, ARE YOU EVEN SPEAKING WORDS OR WHAT?! KING PACHUN... EASTERN RACE... WHY WOULD I KNOW ANY OF THIS GOBBLEDY-GOOK?!

ENOUGH WITH THE CHIT-CHAT! YOU WANT ANSWERS?!
I'LL BEAT 'EM OUTTA THIS PUNK! ONCE HE'S DESTROYED, THE BLADE'LL BE OURS FOR THE TAKING!

WHAT'D HE SAY?! SONOFA...!

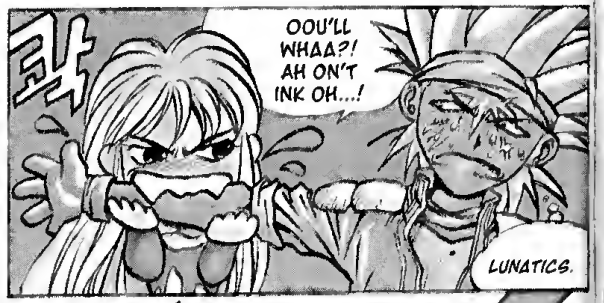
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, KAY?!

OH, I GET IT NOW! YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS! ALL YOU WANT IS TO GET YOUR GRUBBY LITTLE HANDS ON THE BLADE!
IN THAT CASE... NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DEFEND YOURSELF!!

WHAT...?! HE'S CHARGING US?! HE'S CHARGING ME?! THE GALL!!

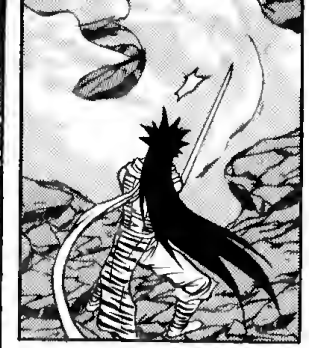
OH

HEY, GIRLIE!
CALL OFF YOUR DOG OR I'LL--


OOU'LL WHAA?! AH ON'T INK OH...!
LUNATICS.

THIS IS POINTLESS. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH ME...AT LEAST NOT IN YOUR PRESENT STATE.

OH



THE HAND IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE...AND MY FEET ARE FASTER THAN YOUR SWORD.

DAMMIT! HOW DID HE DO THAT?! HE'S JUST TOYING WITH ME!

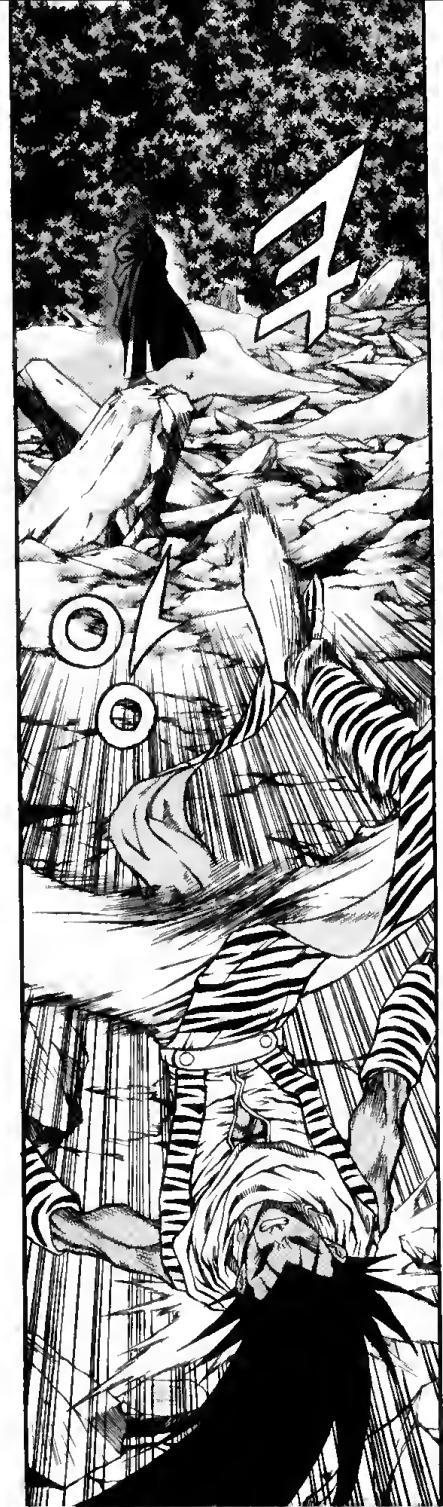
HUH...?!
HE DISAPPEARED!
YOUR SWINGS ARE WILD AND IMPRECISE. THAT IS WHY YOU MISS.
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU SHUT YER YAP AND MEET ME HALFWAY-- BY RUNNING TO ME, INSTEAD!
S-SOMA! BEHIND YOU!!
CAREFUL, MASTER TAN! HE'S SUMMONING THE BLADE'S LION ENERGY!!

A SWORD'S ENERGY SHOULD BE AS GRACEFUL AS A CLOUD GENTLY FLOATING ACROSS A SUMMER SKY...
...AND, WHEN NEED BE, AS STRONG AND POWERFUL AS A THUNDERHEAD. ONE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER. IF ALL YOU CAN MUSTER IS STRENGTH, THEN YOUR SKILLS ARE USELESS.
AMAZING! EVEN THE AIR CANNOT DECIPHER HIS MOVEMENTS!
GRRR! THIS WHOLE "LEAF ON THE BREEZE" ROUTINE IS GETTIN' REAL OLD, MAN!
HIS FIGHTING SKILLS ARE NEARLY IMMACULATE!

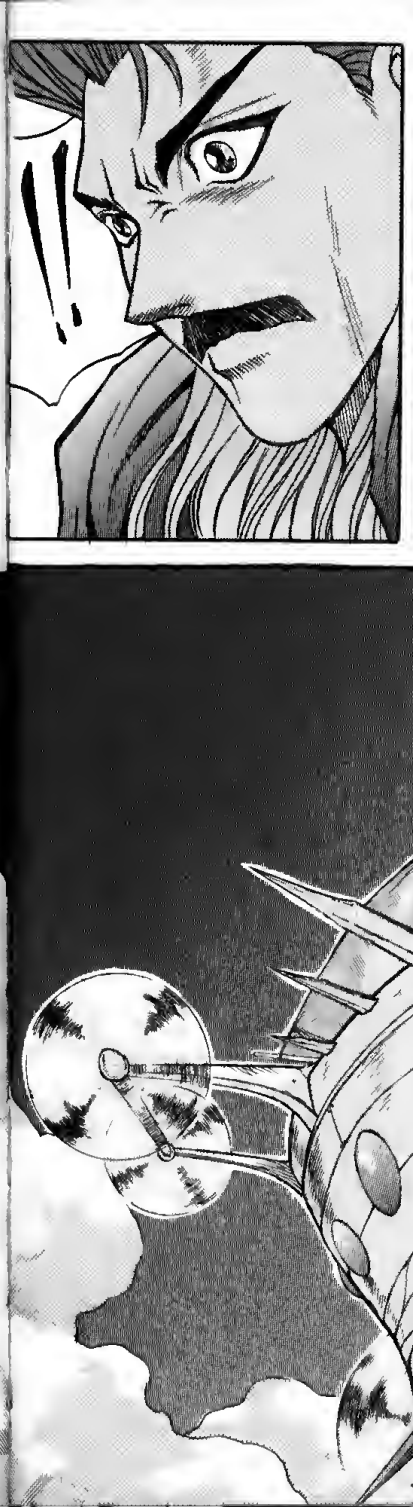
THINK, BOY! IF YOU CAN'T SWIM, THRASHING ABOUT ONLY QUICKENS DEATH! THINK BEFORE YOU SWING!
HE'S SO STRONG...!
HURK ...!
I CAN'T... PULL IT... FREE!
THINK BEFORE I SWING, EH?! WELL, GUESS WHAT'S ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW, BUTTWIPE!!

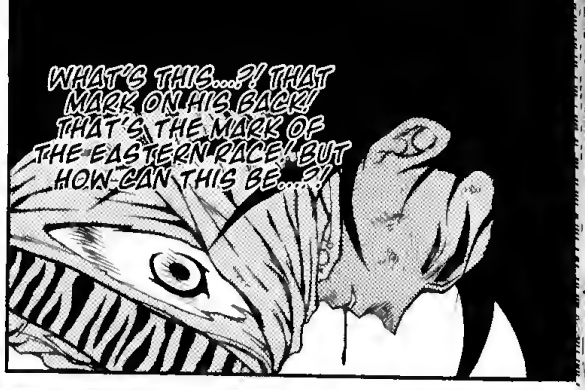
OH! HE'S USING THE DIVINE MOORAE!!
UNH!

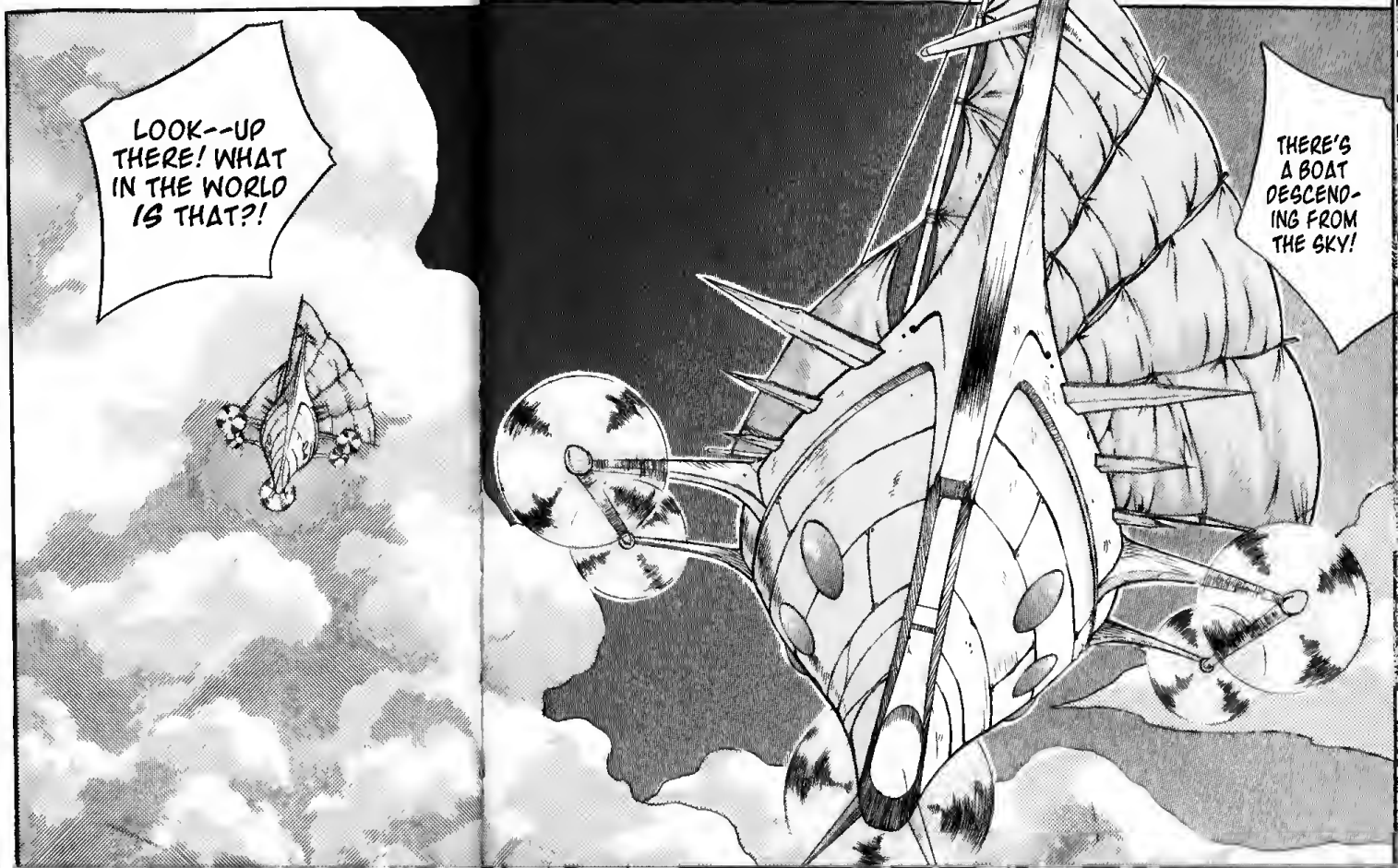
AH...I SEE! HE'S TURNING SOMA'S OWN ENERGY AGAINST HIM!



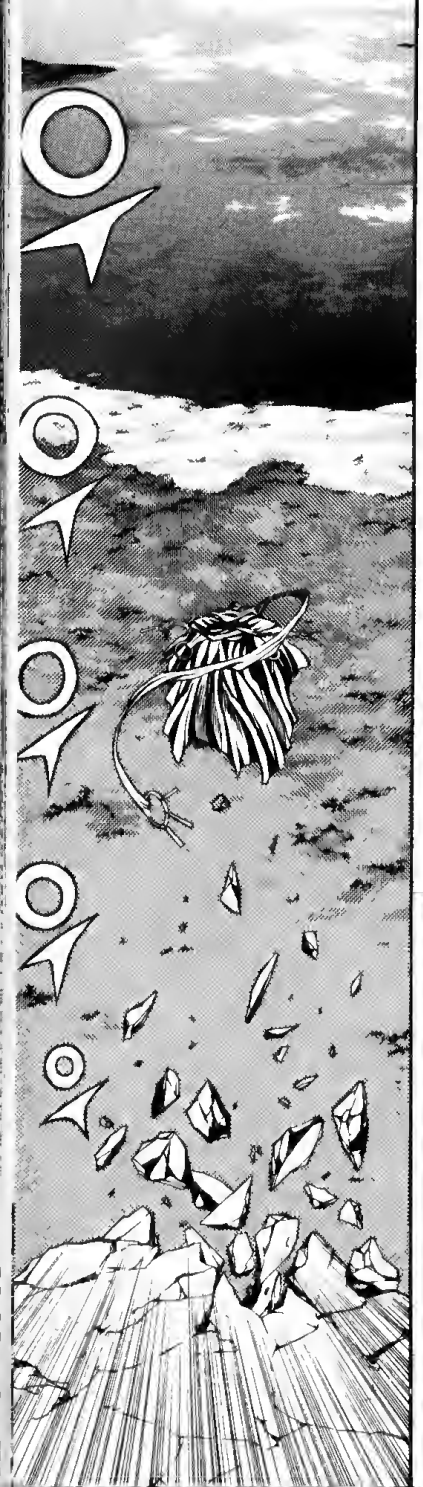
UHHH...

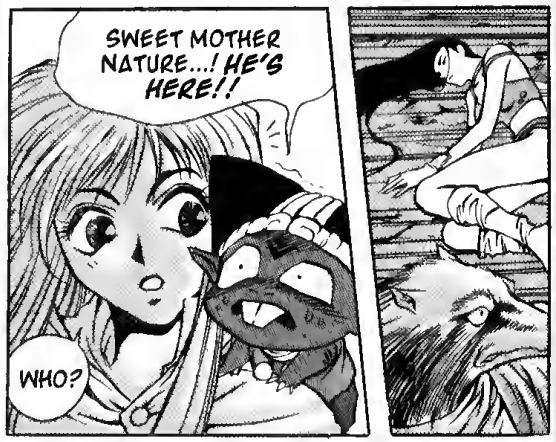



WHAT'S THIS...?! THAT MARK ON HIS BACK! THAT'S THE MARK OF THE EASTERN RACE! BUT HOW CAN THIS BE...?!


LOOK--UP THERE! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?!
THERE'S A BOAT DESCEND-ING FROM THE SKY!

HOORAY!! THEY MADE IT BACK WITH YAHOSUN!!
DUDE... SINCE WHEN DO BOATS FLY?!
C'MON!! LET'S GO!! CHOP, CHOP!! WE HAVE TO GET THERE BEFORE MY RYUHA SEES MAKUMRANG LOOKING ALL HEROIC AND STUFF!!
MY POOR, SWEET, DUMB BABY... DON'T YOU REALIZE MAIN CHARACTERS LIKE MYSELF ARE ALWAYS FASHION-ABLY LATE FOR BATTLE?
YOUNG MASTER...!




SWEET MOTHER NATURE...! HE'S HERE!!
WHO?

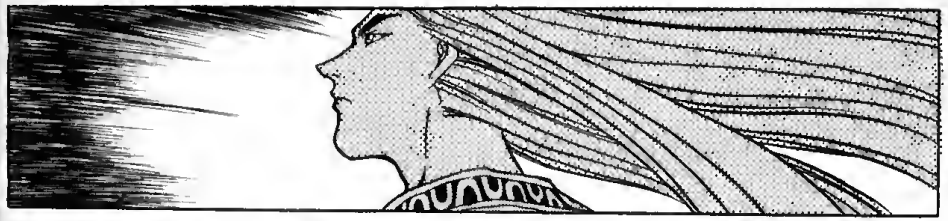
WHAT?! IT CAN'T BE!!

MACHUN--HELL'S NORTH GATE GATEKEEPER IS HERE?!

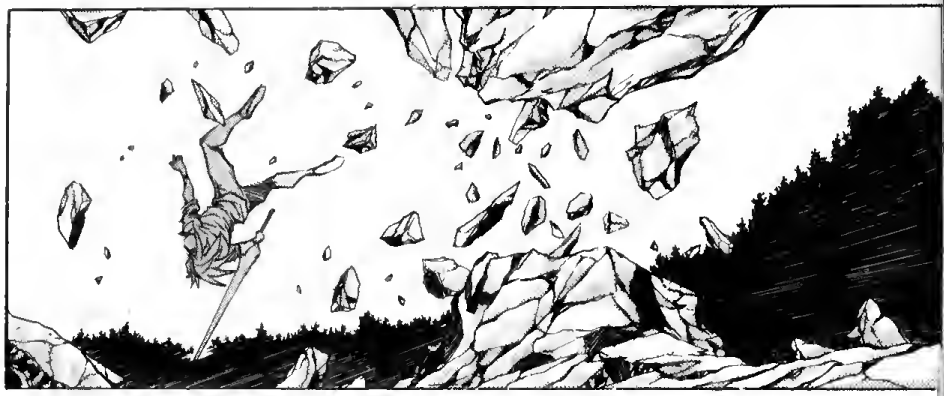
HE'S FINALLY MAKING HIS PLAY!

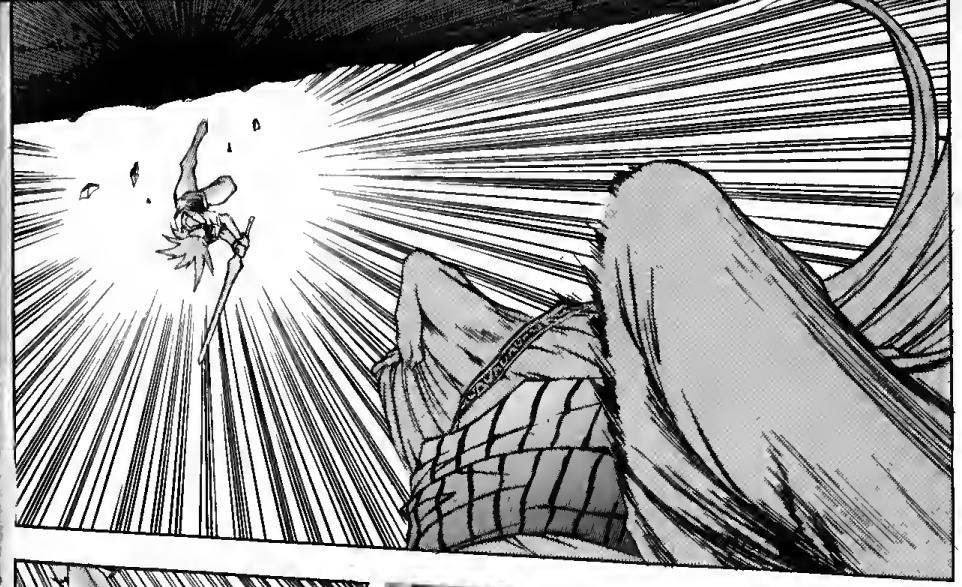
STAND DOWN, GATEKEEPER! THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME!!

CHECK OUT THIS GUY! I BET YOU THINK YOU'RE ALL COOL, SURFIN' IN LIKE THAT! WELL LET'S SEE HOW HIP YOU LOOK AFTER I CARVE A PERMANENT PART IN THAT DOME OF YOURS!!



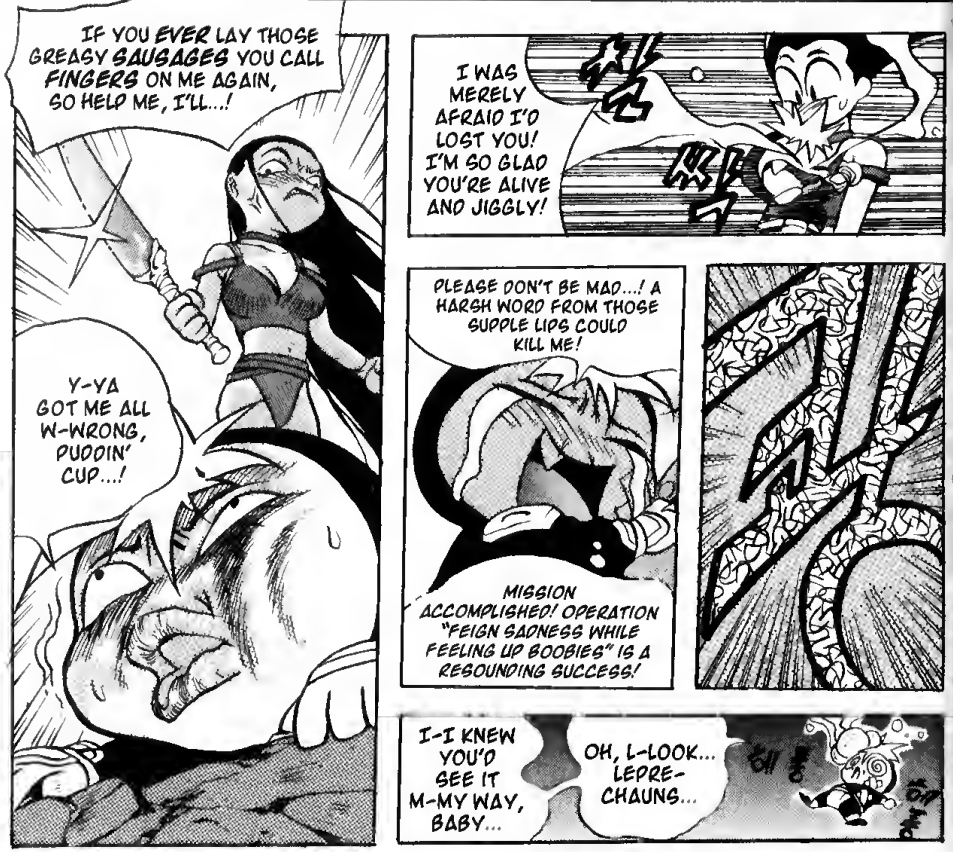
HEY!! THAT WAS MY LUCKY SHIRT, YA BIG JERK!!





TORPEDO
ATTACK!!

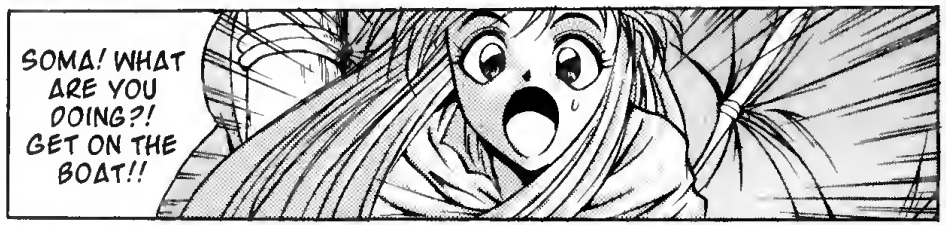
AROOMEE! OUTTA THE WAY, GIRL!
?
AHOY, YER LAND-LUBBERS! WELL?! HURRY UP AND CLIMB ABOARD!
HIS HEAD...HNH... IS HEAVIER...HNH... THAN THE REST OF HIS BODY!
HEY, BABY? HOW 'BOUT YOU STOP BOSSIN' MOMMA AROUND AND GIVE US A HAND!!
LET'S GO, WHILE MAKUMRANG KEEPS THEM OCCUPIED!
HELP ME DRAG CHULDO AND RYUHA ONTO THE SHIP!
HAVE YOU NOT EYES?! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M EXAMINING RYUHA'S BODY FOR INJURIES?!
STARTING WITH THESE SOFT, LUSCIOUS...
WHAAH!!


IF YOU EVER LAY THOSE GREASY SAUSAGES YOU CALL FINGERS ON ME AGAIN, SO HELP ME, I'LL...!
Y-YA GOT ME ALL W-WRONG, PUDDIN' CUP...!

I WAS MERELY AFRAID I'D LOST YOU! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE AND JIGGLY!

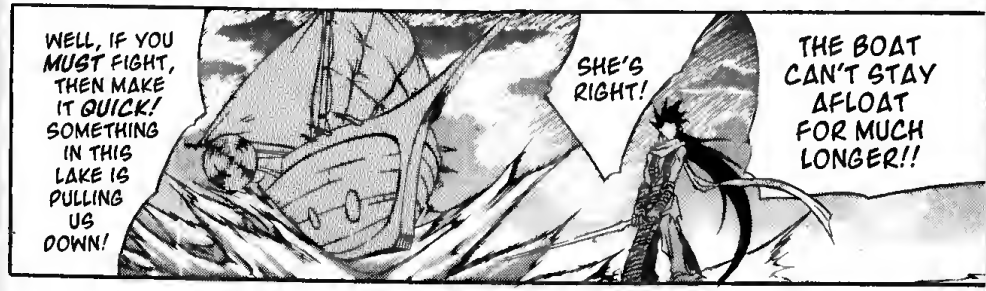
PLEASE DON'T BE MAD...! A HARSH WORD FROM THOSE SUPPLE LIPS COULD KILL ME!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! OPERATION "FEIGN SADNESS WHILE FEELING UP BOOBIES" IS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

I-I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT M-MY WAY, BABY...
OH, L-LOOK... LEPRE-CHAUNS...


SOMA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! GET ON THE BOAT!!

I...I'M NOT GOING...!

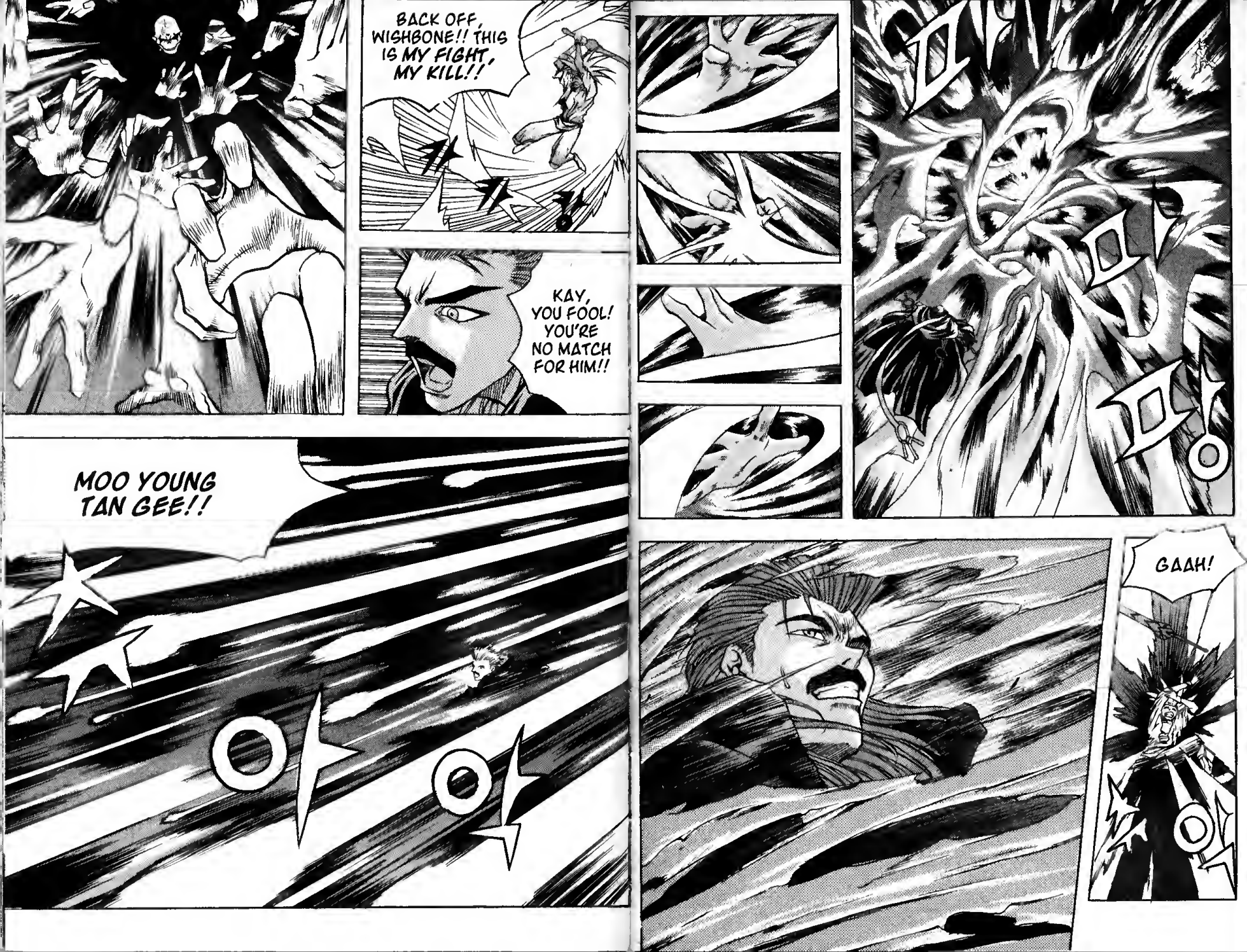
THIS FIGHT IS FAR FROM OVER!


WELL, IF YOU MUST FIGHT, THEN MAKE IT QUICK! SOMETHING IN THIS LAKE IS PULLING US DOWN!
SHE'S RIGHT!
THE BOAT CAN'T STAY AFLOAT FOR MUCH LONGER!!

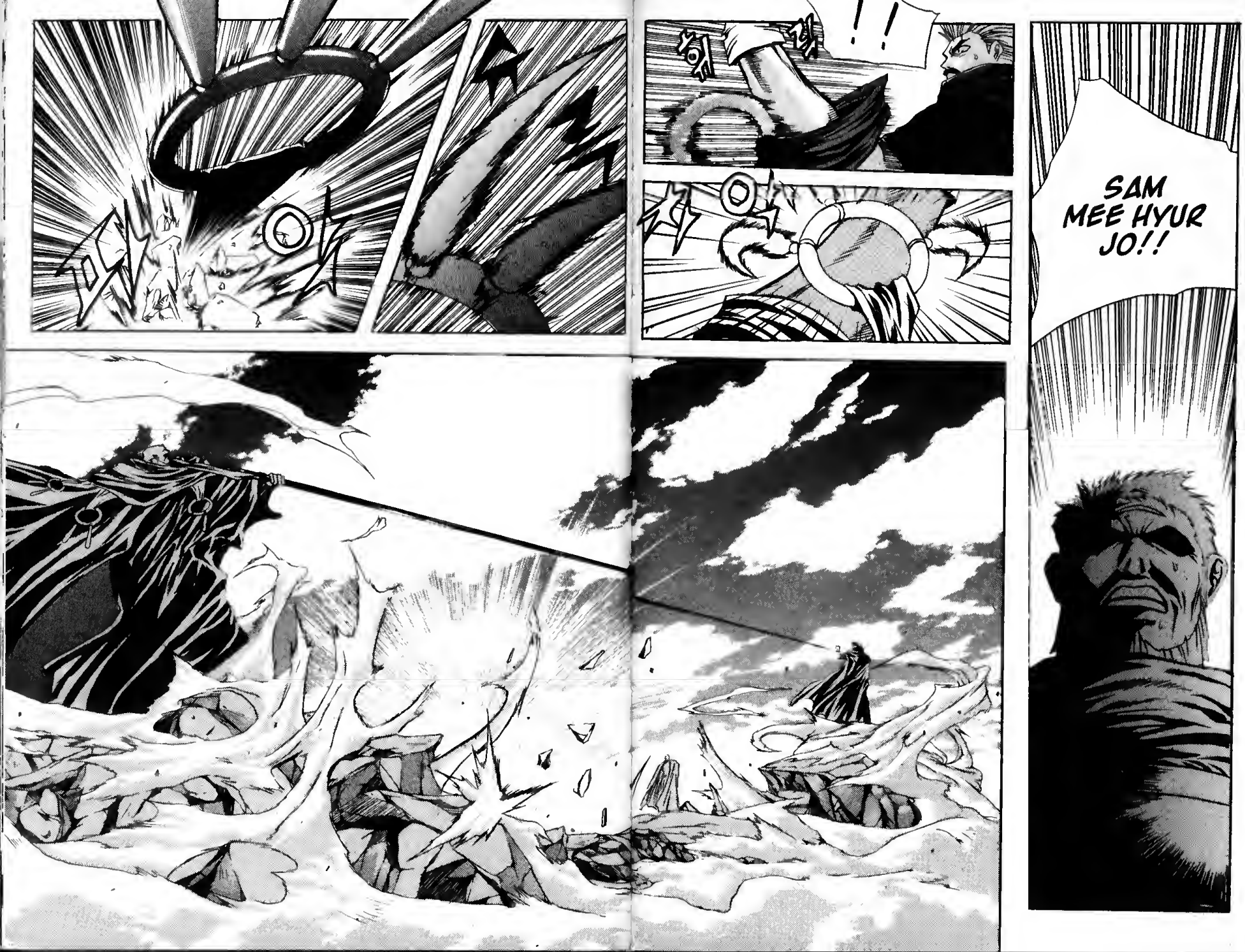
ZOOOM

BLADE OF HEAVEN

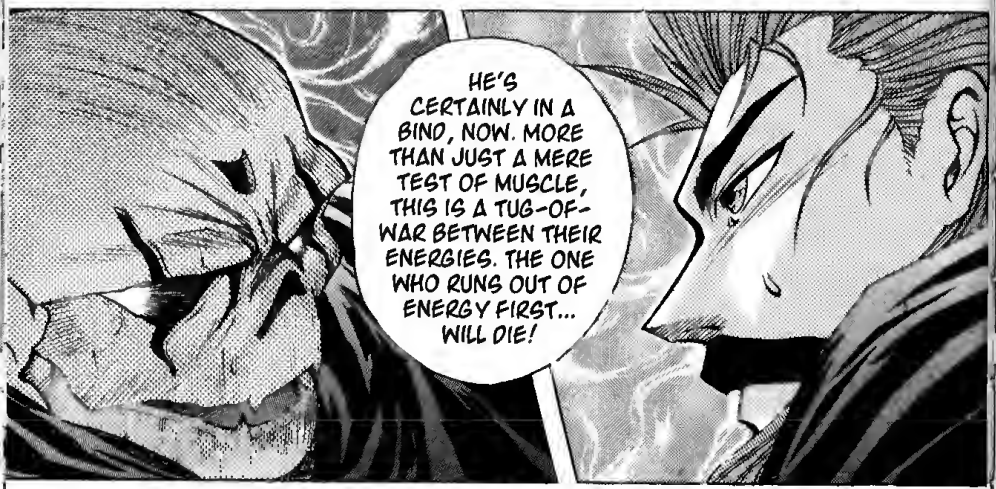
OH, YEAH!! STINGS, DON'T IT, PUNK?! TORPEDO SWORD COMBINE !!
HE's MINE, MoRTAL. MoVE ASIDE.

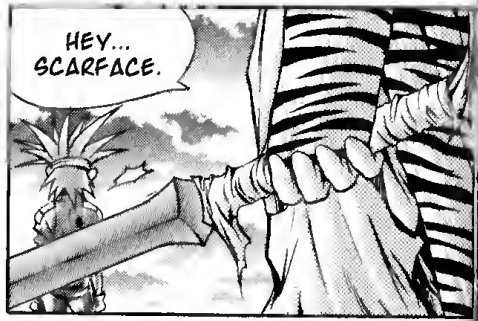

BACK OFF, WISHBONE!! THIS IS MY FIGHT, MY KILL!!
KAY, YOU FOOL! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM!!
MOO YOUNG TAN GEE!!
GAAH!

KAY! STAND DOWN! THAT'S AN ORDER!!
NO!! I CAN TAKE THIS CREEP!!

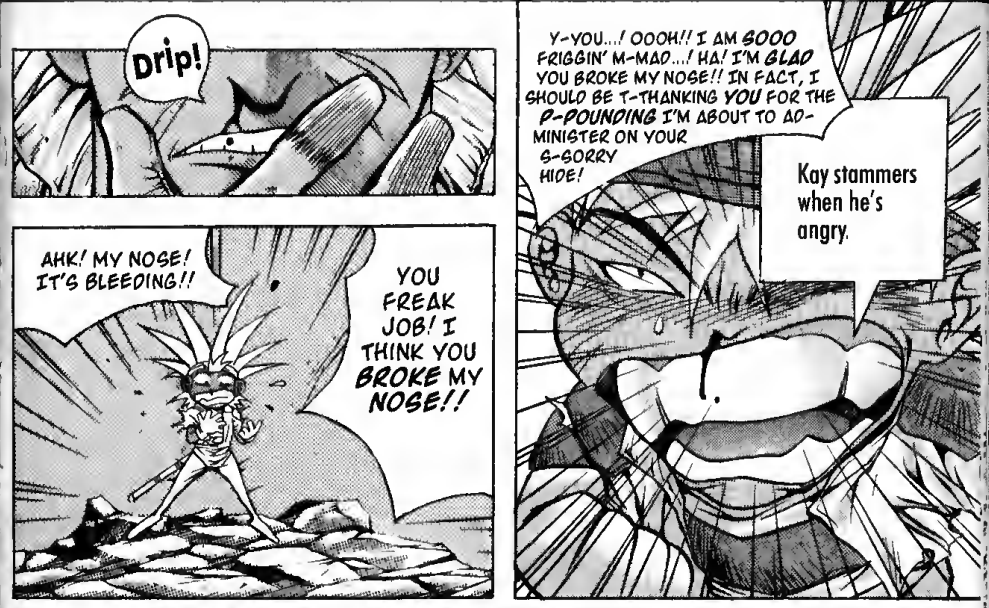

!!
SAM MEE HYUR JO!!

Sam Mee Hyur Jo:
At first glonce, it looks like o simple piece of cloth wrapped oraund Machun's neck... however, when he channels his energy into it, the cloth morphs inta o deadly three-clowed weapon.

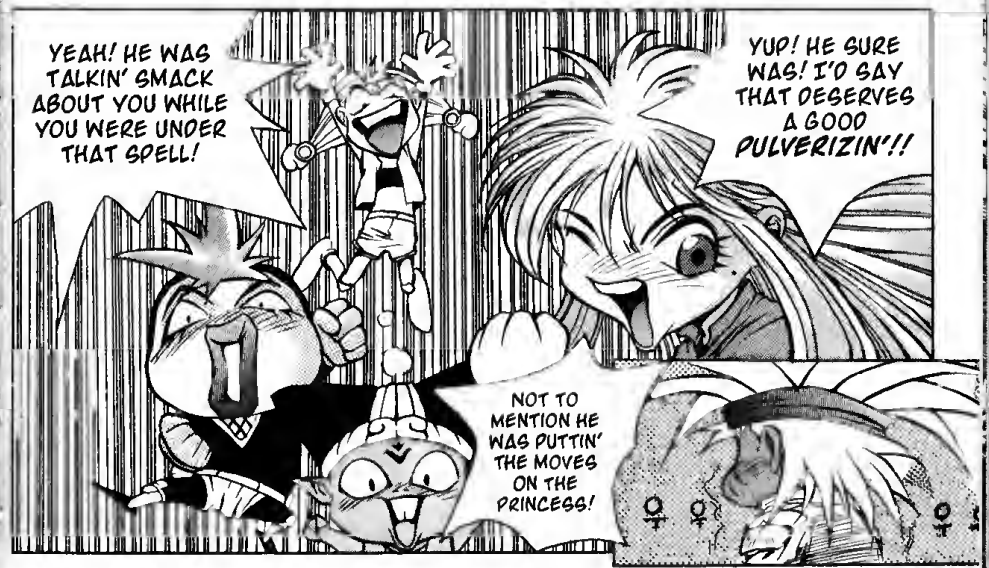




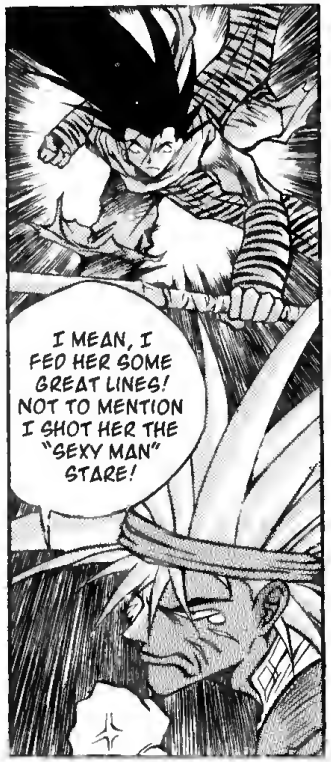
SOMA'S FIGHTING OVER MAKUMRANG...?
HE'S RIGHT. I GUESS IN ALL THIS CRAZI-NESS...
...WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SAY IT. BUT I THINK INSIDE, WE ALL KNEW!
THROUGHOUT ALL OF IT, THE GOOD AND THE BAD...
...WE HAVE BECOME FRIENDS. FORGED BY PAIN AND JOY, WE ARE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN OUR HEARTS!
AW! I SUDDENLY FEEL SO WARM!
YEAH...LIKE WHEN YOU JUST PEED IN THE POOL!
M-MY DOSE!! DOU...DOU DASTARD! DOU DARE DIKE MIB BACE?!


Drip!
AHK! MY NOSE! IT'S BLEEDING!!
YOU FREAK JOB! I THINK YOU BROKE MY NOSE!!
Y-YOU...! OOOH!! I AM SOOO FRIGGIN' M-MAD...! HA! I'M GLAD YOU BROKE MY NOSE!! IN FACT, I SHOULD BE T-THANKING YOU FOR THE P-POUNDING I'M ABOUT TO AD-MINISTER ON YOUR S-SORRY HIDE!
Kay stammers when he's angry.

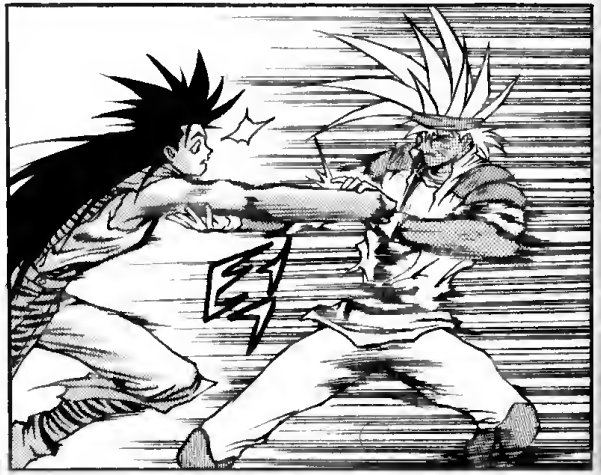
WIPE THE FLOOR WITH THAT CREEP, SOMA!!

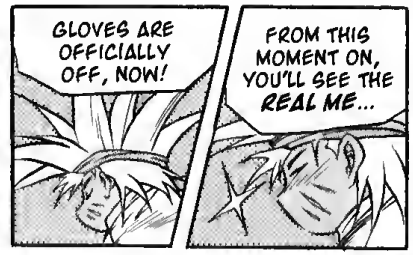

YEAH! HE WAS TALKIN' SMACK ABOUT YOU WHILE YOU WERE UNDER THAT SPELL!
YUP! HE SURE WAS! I'D SAY THAT DESERVES A GOOD PULVERIZIN'!!
NOT TO MENTION HE WAS PUTTIN' THE MOVES ON THE PRINCESS!

WELL... THAT'S JUST WRONG. YOU MEAN N-NOBODY'S ON MY SIDE...? NOT EVEN THE PRETTY DINGY CHICK...?

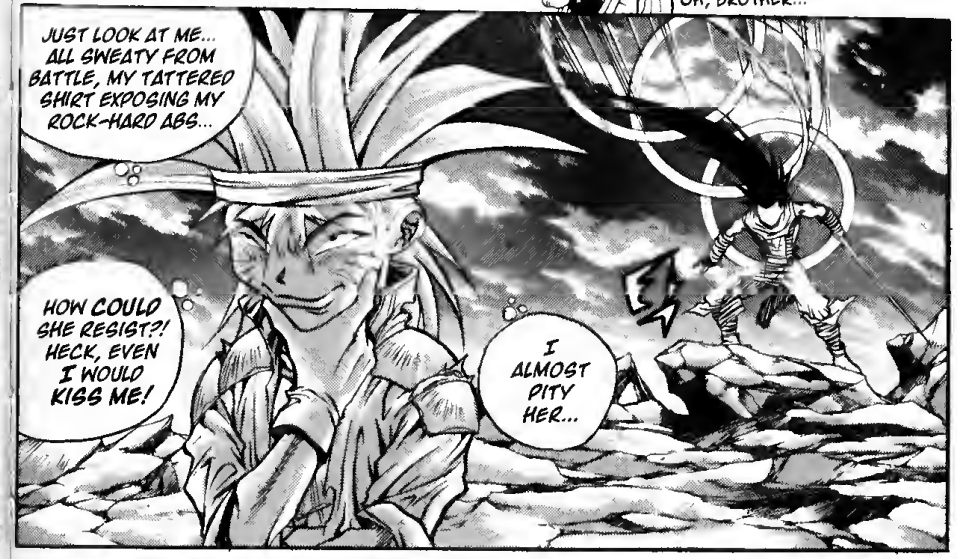

I MEAN, I FED HER SOME GREAT LINES! NOT TO MENTION I SHOT HER THE "SEXY MAN" STARE!

YOU... THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!




GLOVES ARE OFFICIALLY OFF, NOW!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU'LL SEE THE REAL ME...

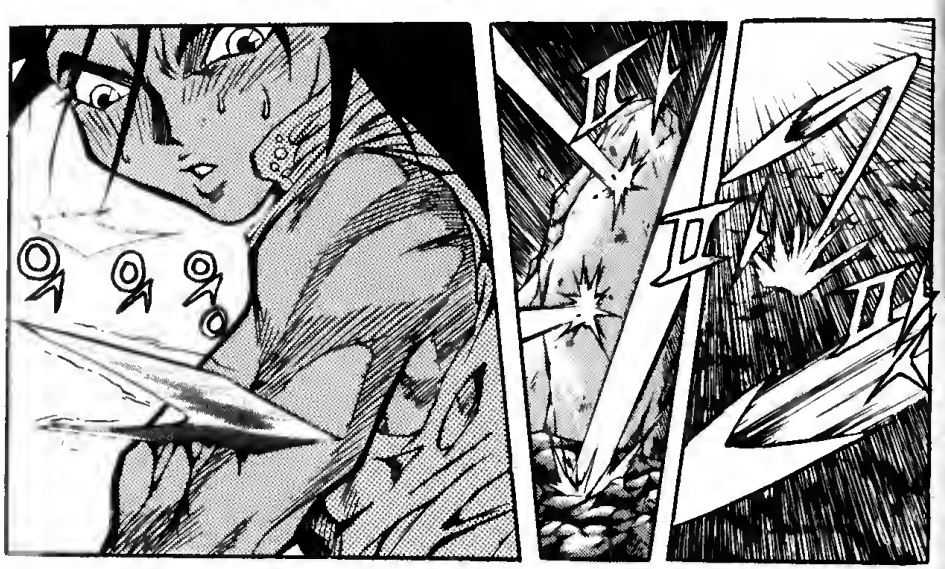
FEAR NOT, SWEET CHEEKS! WATCH HOW A REAL MAN TAKES OUT THE TRASH!


OH, BROTHER...
JUST LOOK AT ME... ALL SWEATY FROM BATTLE, MY TATTERED SHIRT EXPOSING MY ROCK-HARD ABS...
HOW COULD SHE RESIST?! HECK, EVEN I WOULD KISS ME!
I ALMOST PITY HER...

BLADE OF HEAVEN

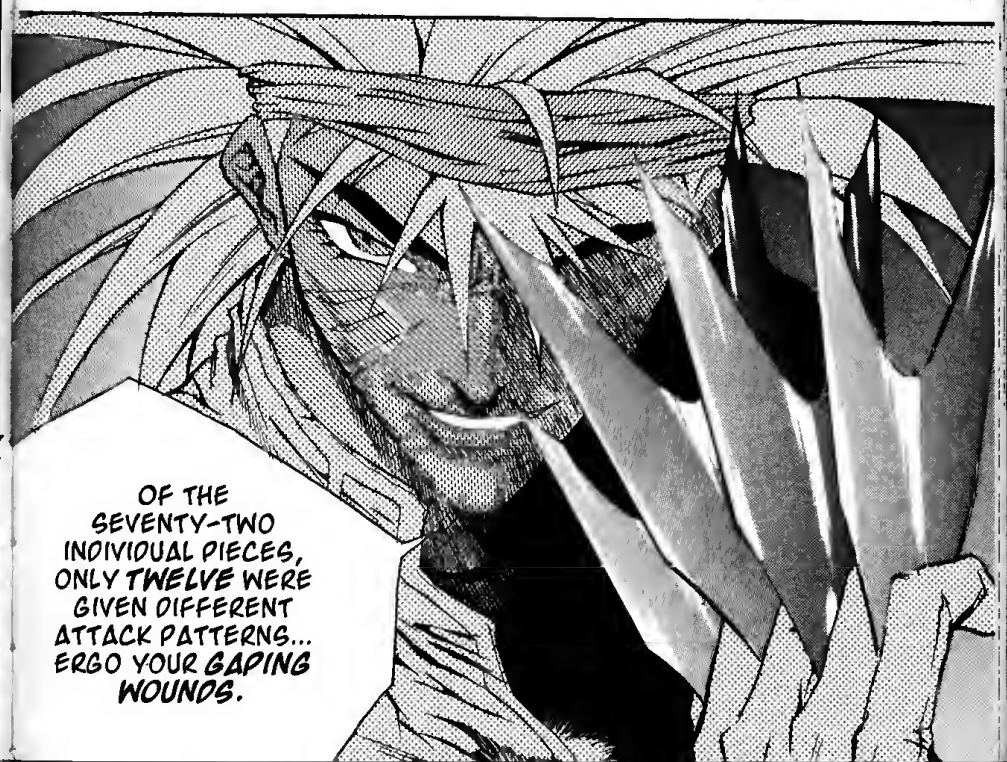
NOT TODAY, YOU DON'T!
NOT BAD...
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE-- TORPEDO SWORD DISPERSE!!
WHOA! THAT'S A TRICK ALMOST WORTHY OF A NINJA!
SOMA, LOOK OUT! THAT'S THE SAME TECHNIQUE HE USED ON MAKUMRANG!!

AGAIN, IF I WERE WEARING A HAT, IT'D OFFICIALLY BE OFF. NOT MANY CAN DEFEND AGAINST THAT TECHNIQUE.
THAT SAID... YOU MISSED A SPOT.



NYAAH!!

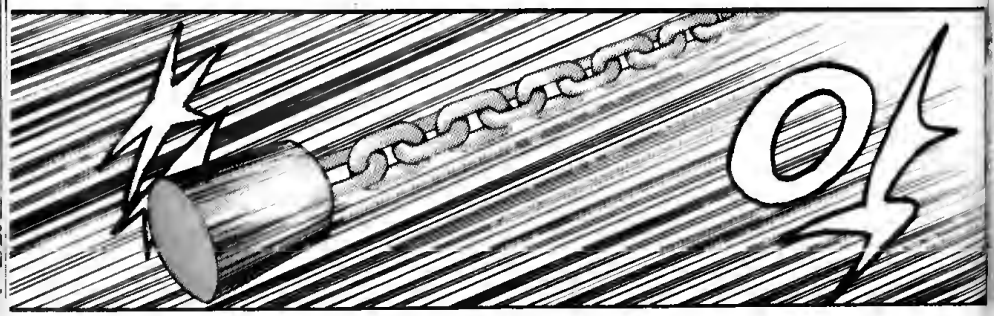
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN...FOR MY SEVENTY-TWO TORPEDO ATTACK, THE SMALLER PIECES OF THE SWORD ACT AS ONE.


OF THE SEVENTY-TWO INDIVIDUAL PIECES, ONLY TWELVE WERE GIVEN DIFFERENT ATTACK PATTERNS... ERGO YOUR GAPING WOUNDS.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO FIGHT...
...NOW THAT MACHUN HAS ENTERED THE FRAY!

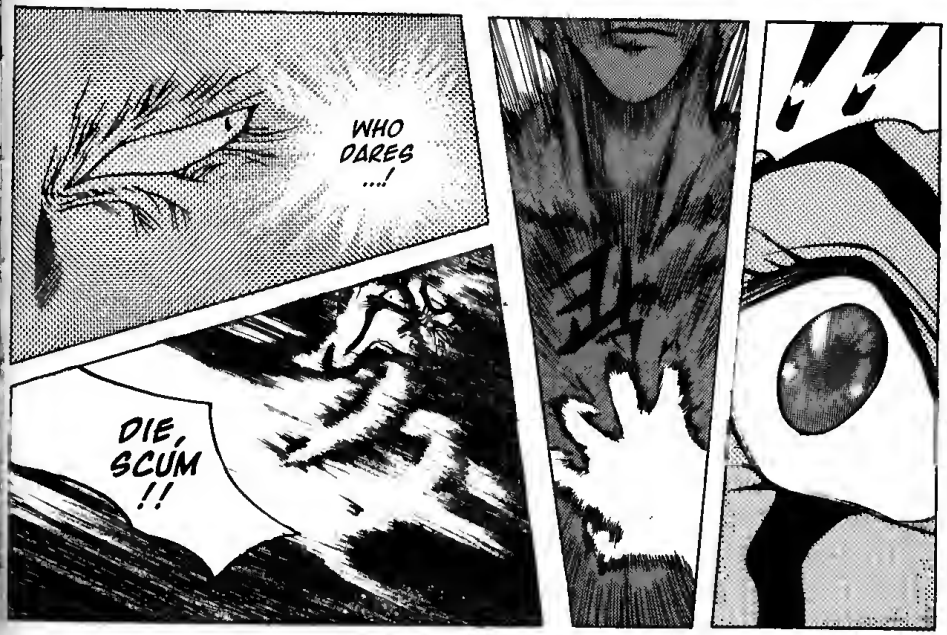
IF MACHUNROO WERE TO FIND OUT...
...I'VE ACTED WITHOUT HIS AUTHORITY...

MACHUN IS UNSTOPPABLE! THESE FOOLISH MORTALS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE UP AGAINST! TO FIGHT FOR THE BLADE NOW WOULD BE SUICIDE!

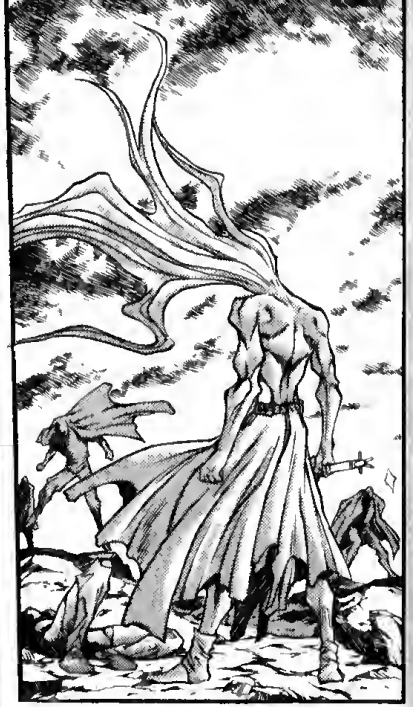

O!

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOU, FOUL DEMON! THERE IS STILL NO ESCAPE!!

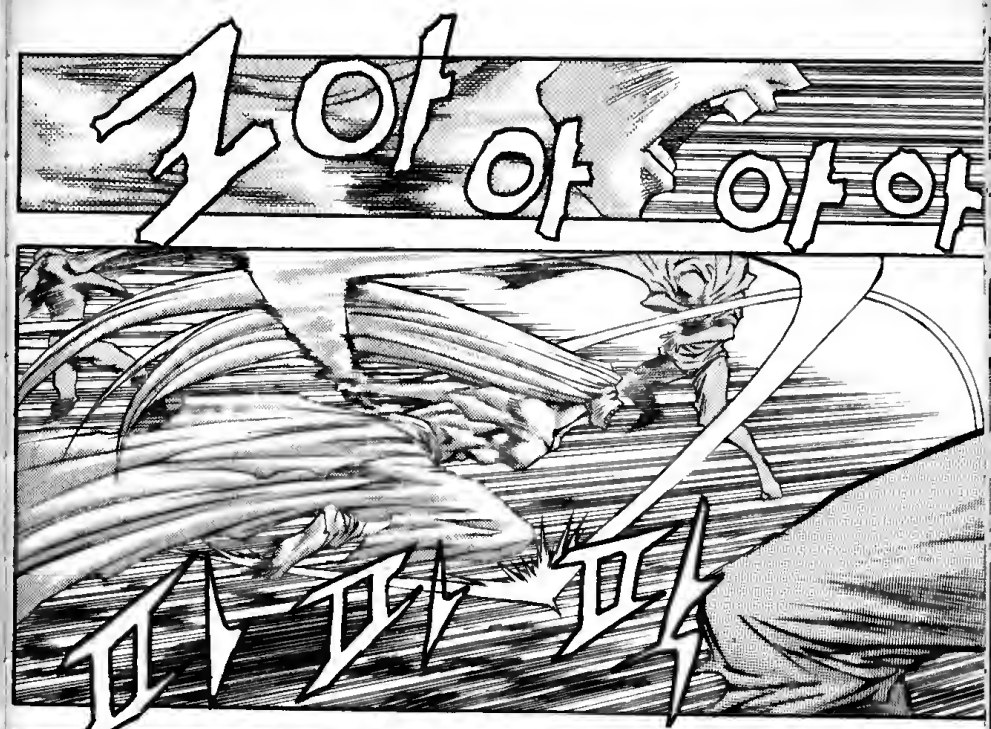
UGH! YOU MANGY ANIMALS ARE AS PERSISTENT AS FLIES!!


WHO DARES ...!
DIE, SCUM !!
!!

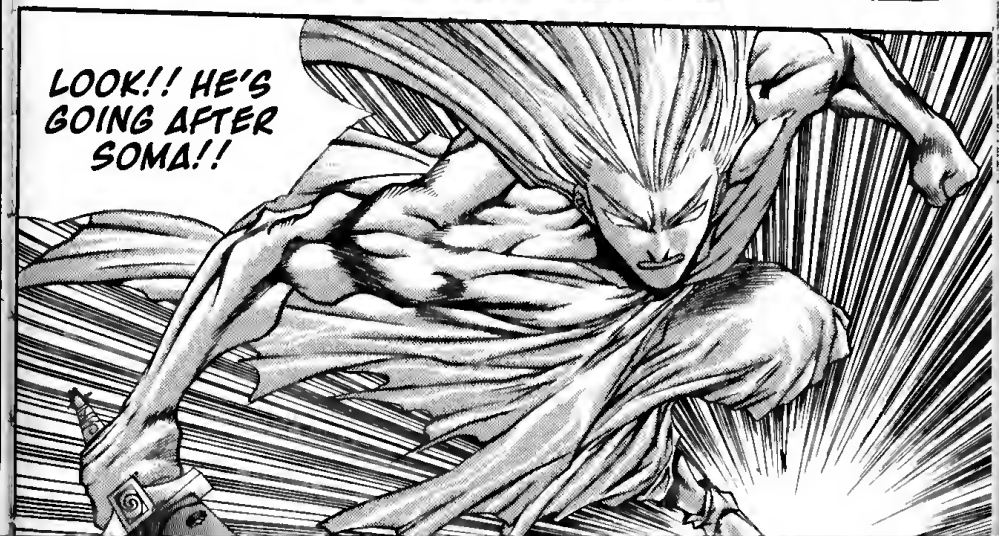
NO.. THE KWANGMA DEVIL...!

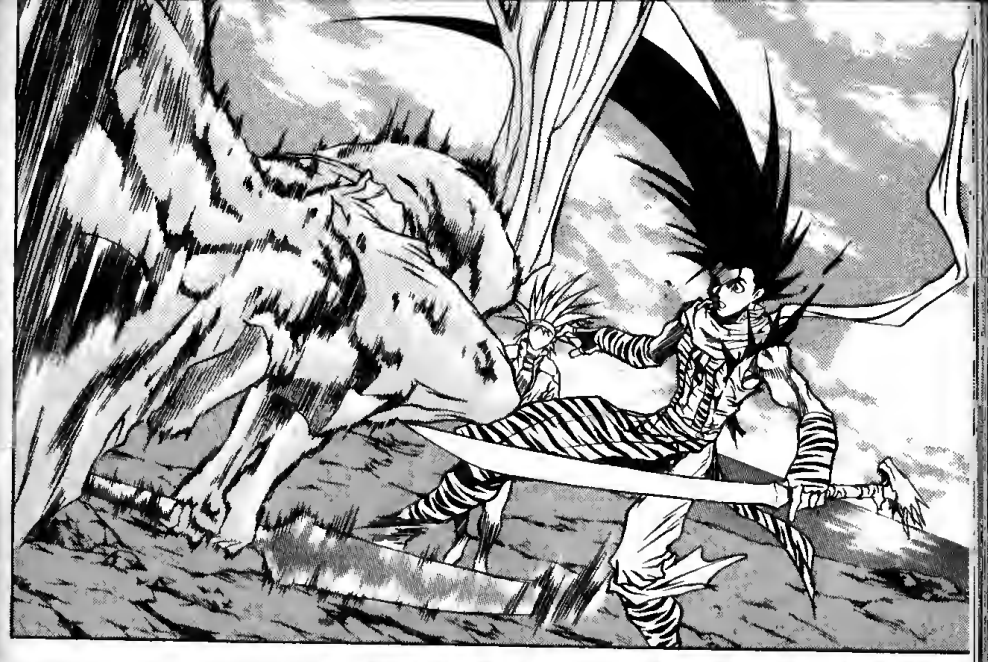


DEFEND-
ERS!!
STAND
DOWN!!


크아아아아
파-파-팍

IS
THAT...?
IT IS!!
IT'S
MAKUM-
RANG!
HE
CHANGED
BACK INTO
THAT WILD
BEAST!!


LOOK!! HE'S
GOING AFTER
SOMA!!

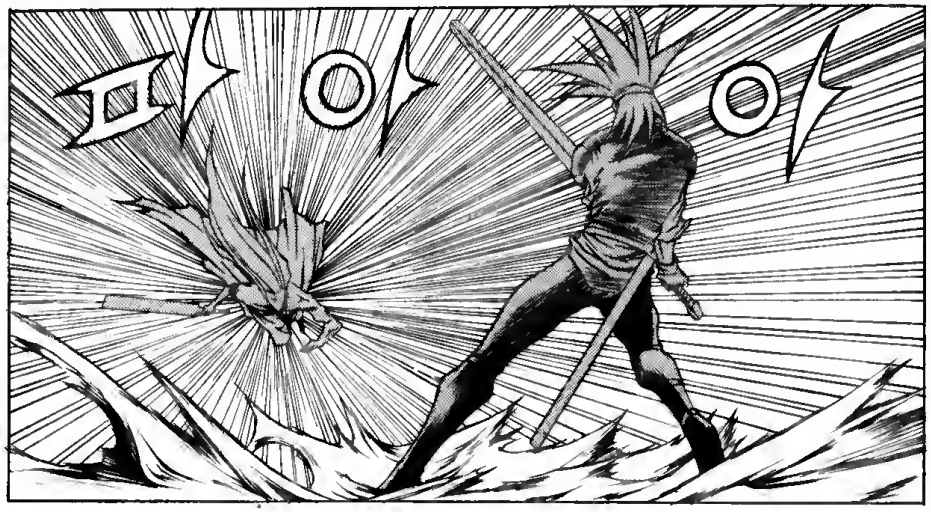


IS THAT MAKUMRANG ...?!

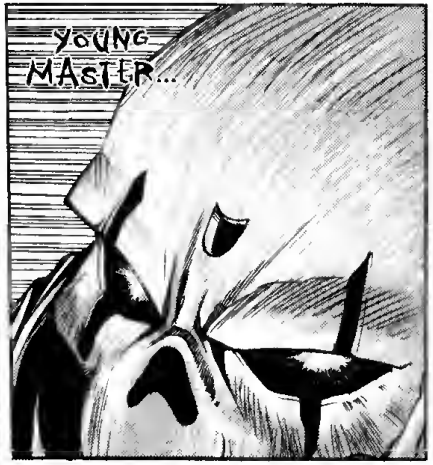
SOMA!! WATCH OUT!!

YEP...IT'S CLEAR THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD ARE PRETTY TIGHT WITH YOU GUYS...YEESH!

THAT SCOWL WON'T PROTECT YOU FROM MY TORPEDO ATTACK, SHIRTLESS ONE!!

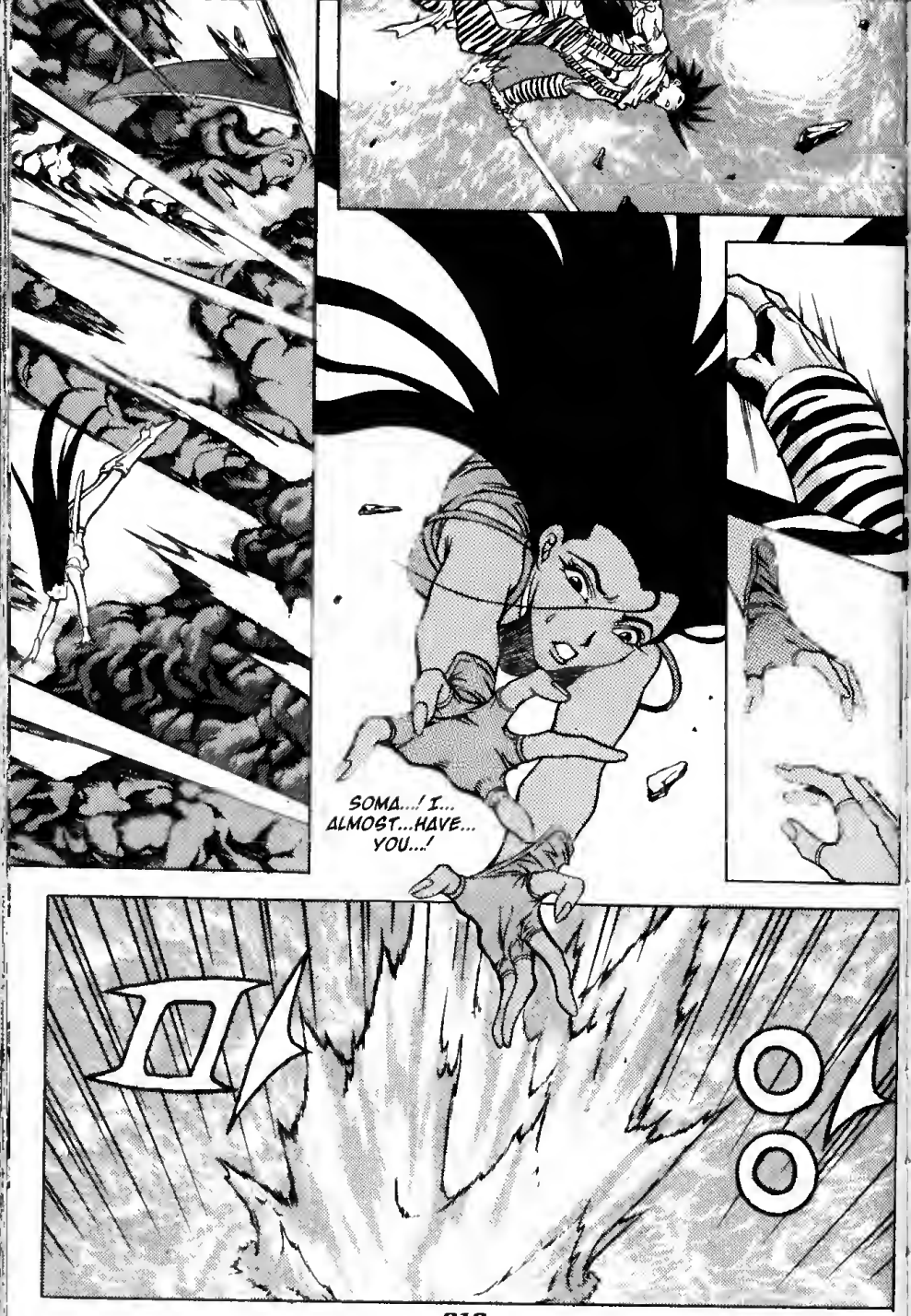


DAMN KID'S GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF ME!!

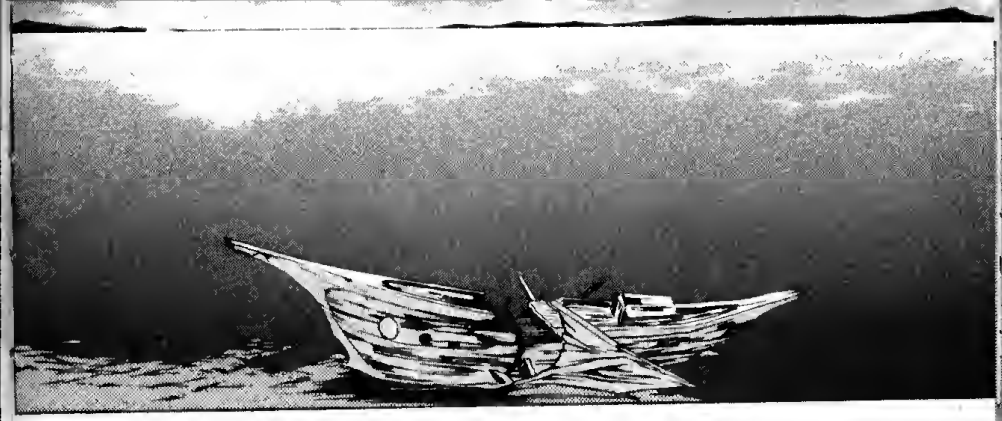

YOUNG MASTER...

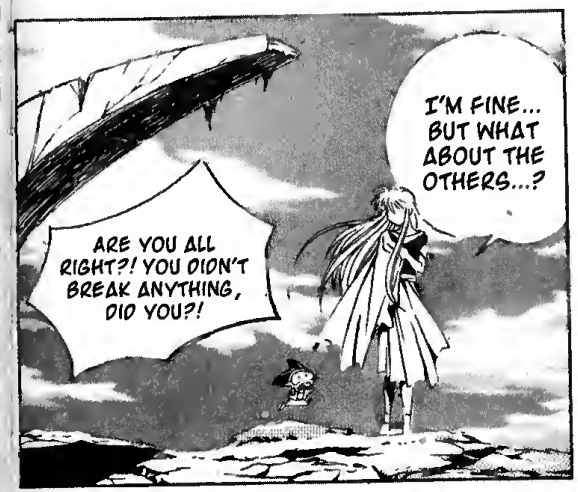
BLADE OF HEAVEN

CRAZY WEATHER WE'RE HAVIN', HUH?!
IT'S A VORTEX OF ENERGY!! HOLD ON TIGHT SO THE LAKE'S ENERGY DOESN'T SUCK YOU IN!!
NO!! SOMA!!
NO!! FUNBAGS!! I MEAN, RYUHA!!


SOMA...! I... ALMOST...HAVE... YOU...!

SHE'S DIVING IN AFTER HIM!!
NO!! SHE'LL BE KILLED!! AND I JUST BOUGHT HER CROTCHLESS UNDERWEAR!!

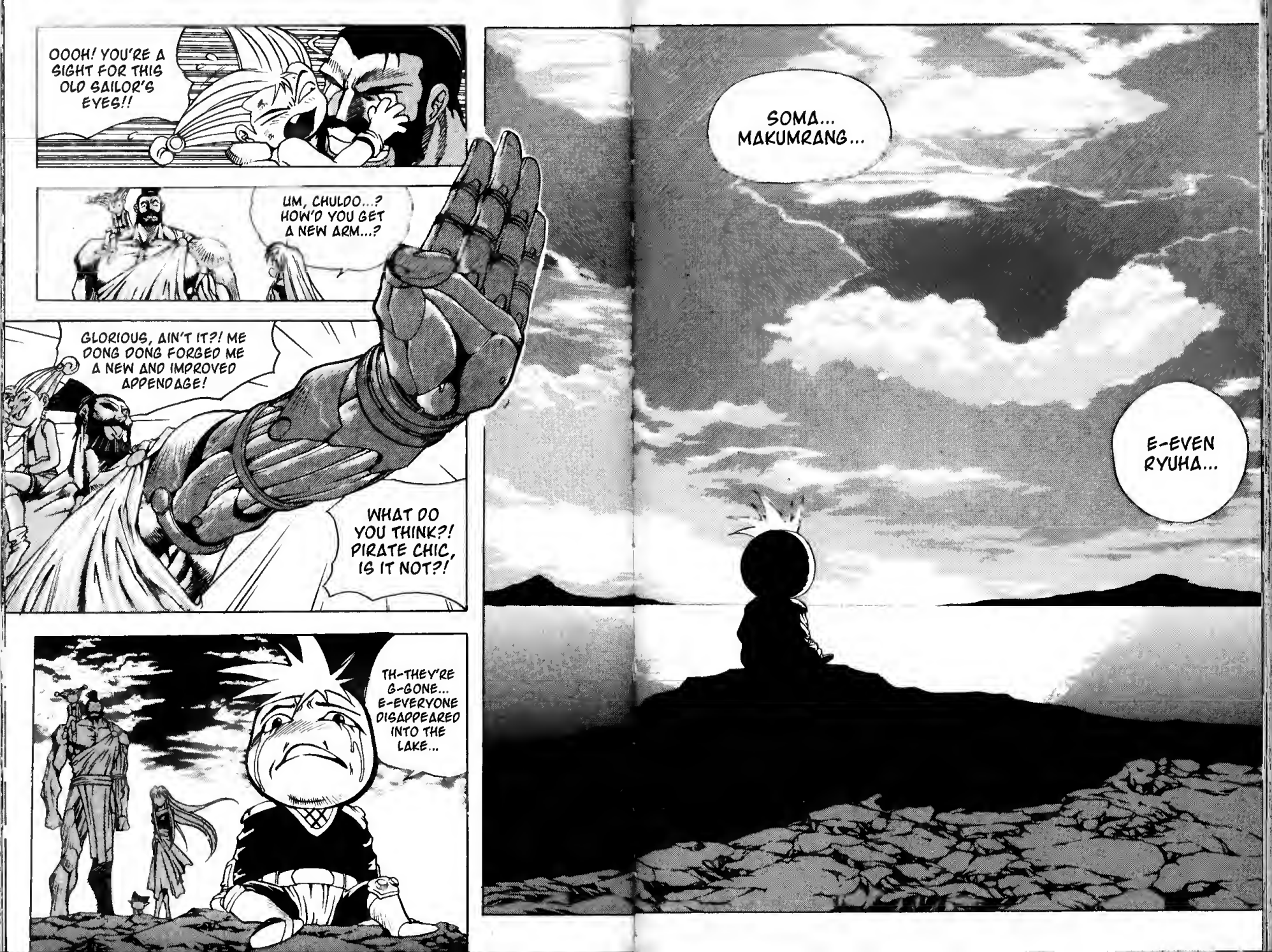


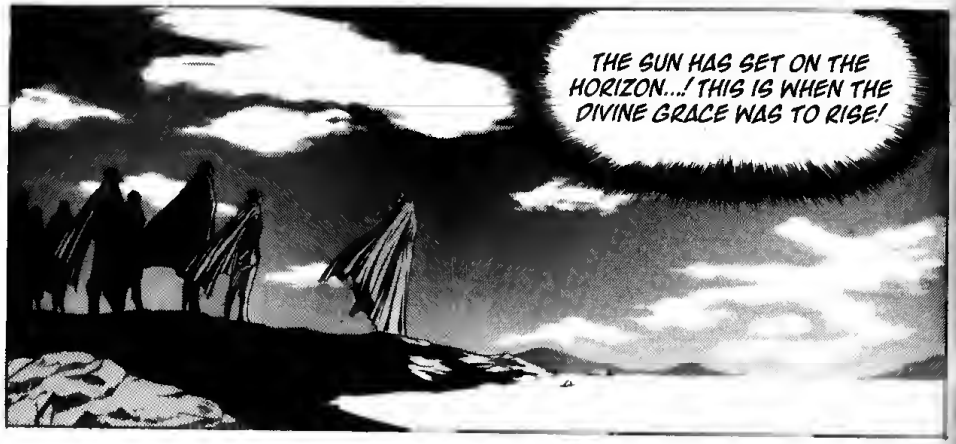

I'M FINE... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS...?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! YOU DIDN'T BREAK ANYTHING, DID YOU?!

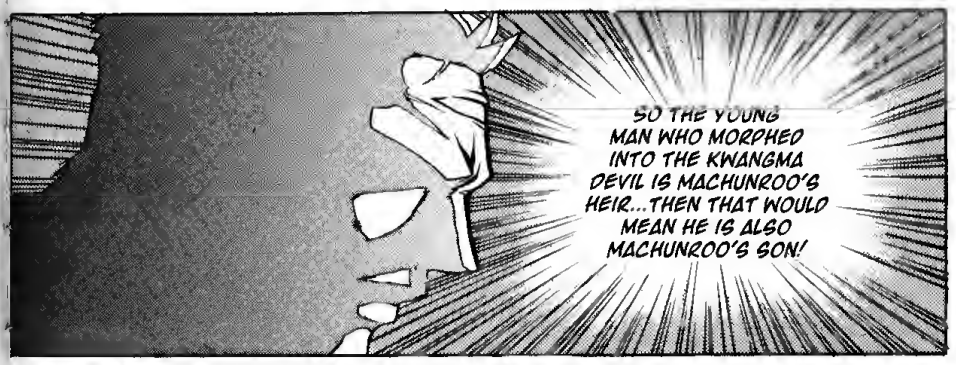
I CAN'T LOSE YEH!! I'M A BUM WITHOUT YEH!!
ANSWER ME IF YOU'RE ABLE, GIRL!!

DONG DONG!! WHERE ARE YEH, LASS?!

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY!! I'M RIGHT HERE, YA BIG BABY!!

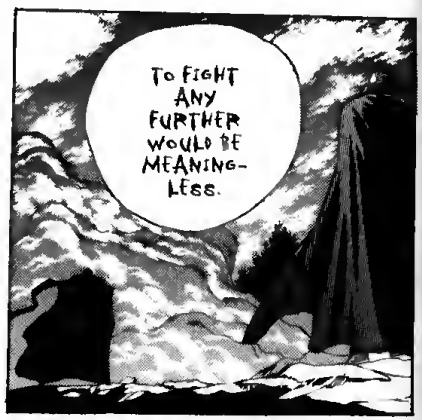

OOOH! YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR THIS OLD SAILOR'S EYES!!
UM, CHULDO...? HOW'D YOU GET A NEW ARM...?
GLORIOUS, AIN'T IT?! ME DONG DONG FORGED ME A NEW AND IMPROVED APPENDAGE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?! PIRATE CHIC, IS IT NOT?!
TH-THEY'RE G-GONE... E-EVERYONE DISAPPEARED INTO THE LAKE...
SOMA... MAKUMRANG...
E-EVEN RYUHA...

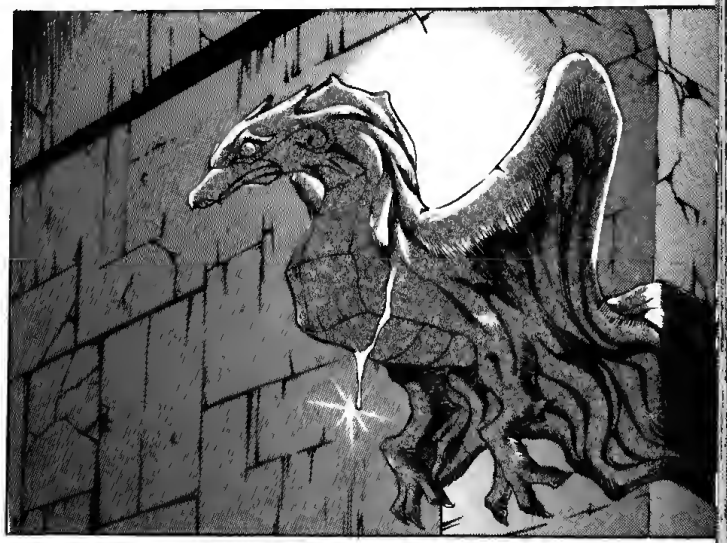

THE SUN HAS SET ON THE HORIZON...! THIS IS WHEN THE DIVINE GRACE WAS TO RISE!

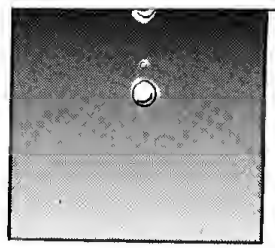

SO THE YOUNG MAN WHO MORPHED INTO THE KWANGMA DEVIL IS MACHUNROO'S HEIR...THEN THAT WOULD MEAN HE IS ALSO MACHUNROO'S SON!

COULD THIS MEAN THAT THE LEGEND IS JUST A MYTH...?
HAVE I WASTED ALL THESE YEARS WAITING FOR A PIPE DREAM?!

I SEEK ONLY TO OBTAIN THE BLADE OF HEAVEN.
MY SOLE OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND THE HEIR of MACHUNROO.


TO FIGHT ANY FURTHER WOULD BE MEANING-LESS.





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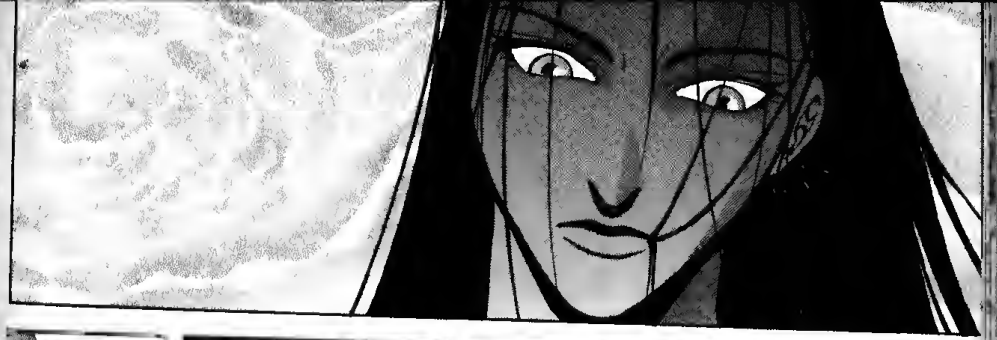
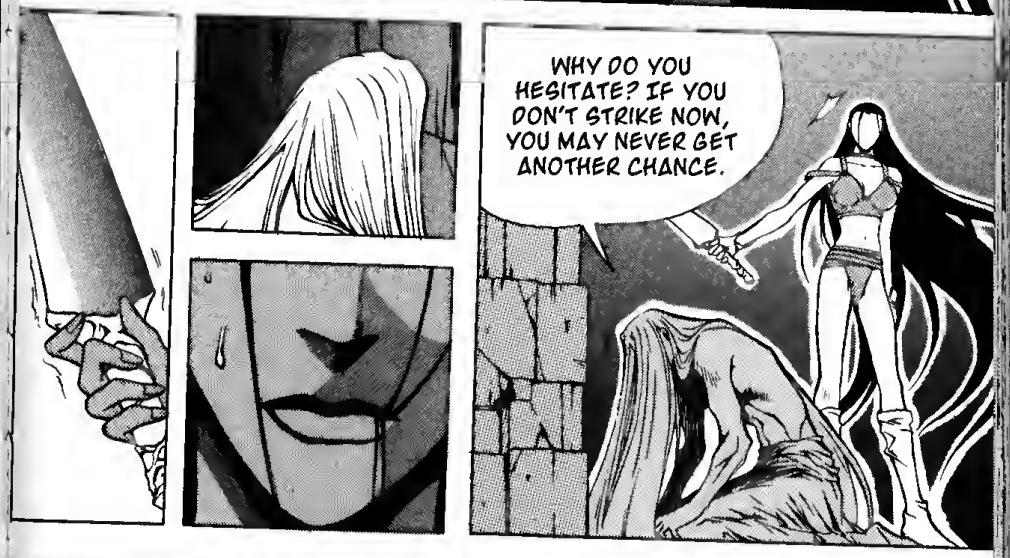
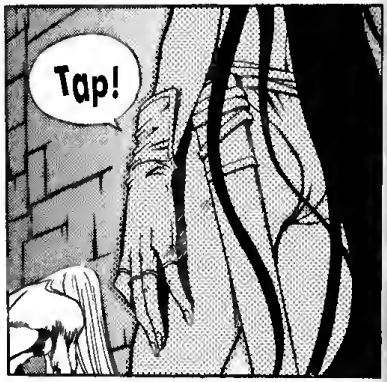
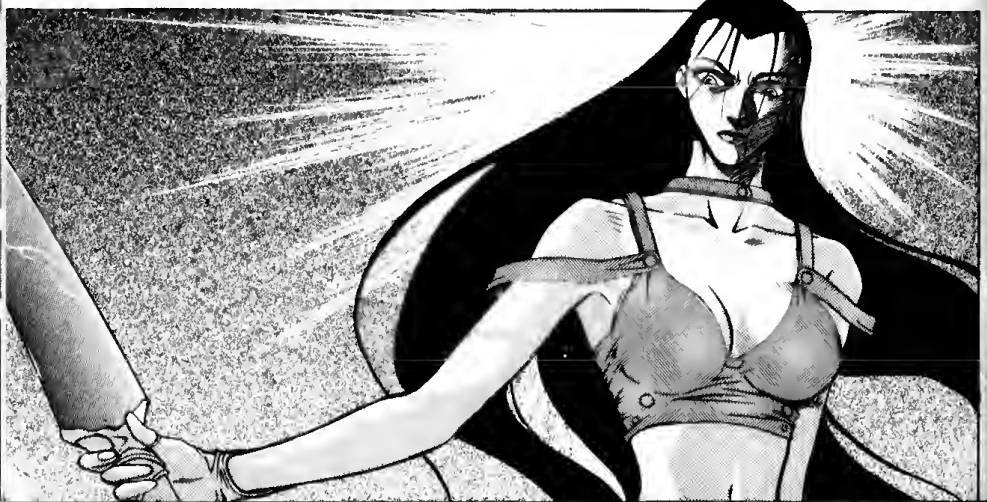
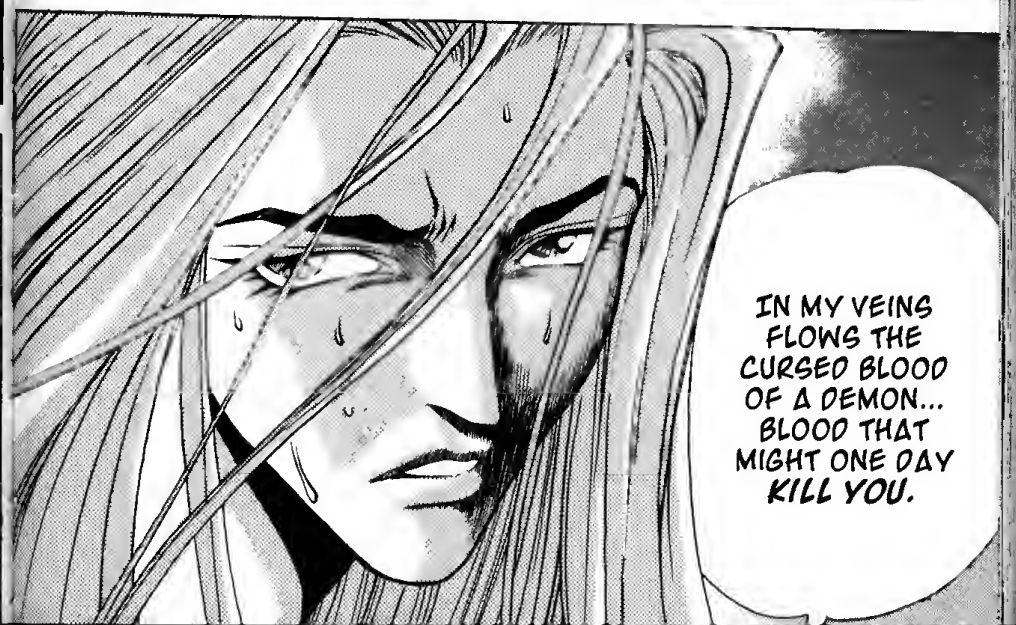



WHY DO YOU HESITATE? IF YOU DON'T STRIKE NOW, YOU MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE.

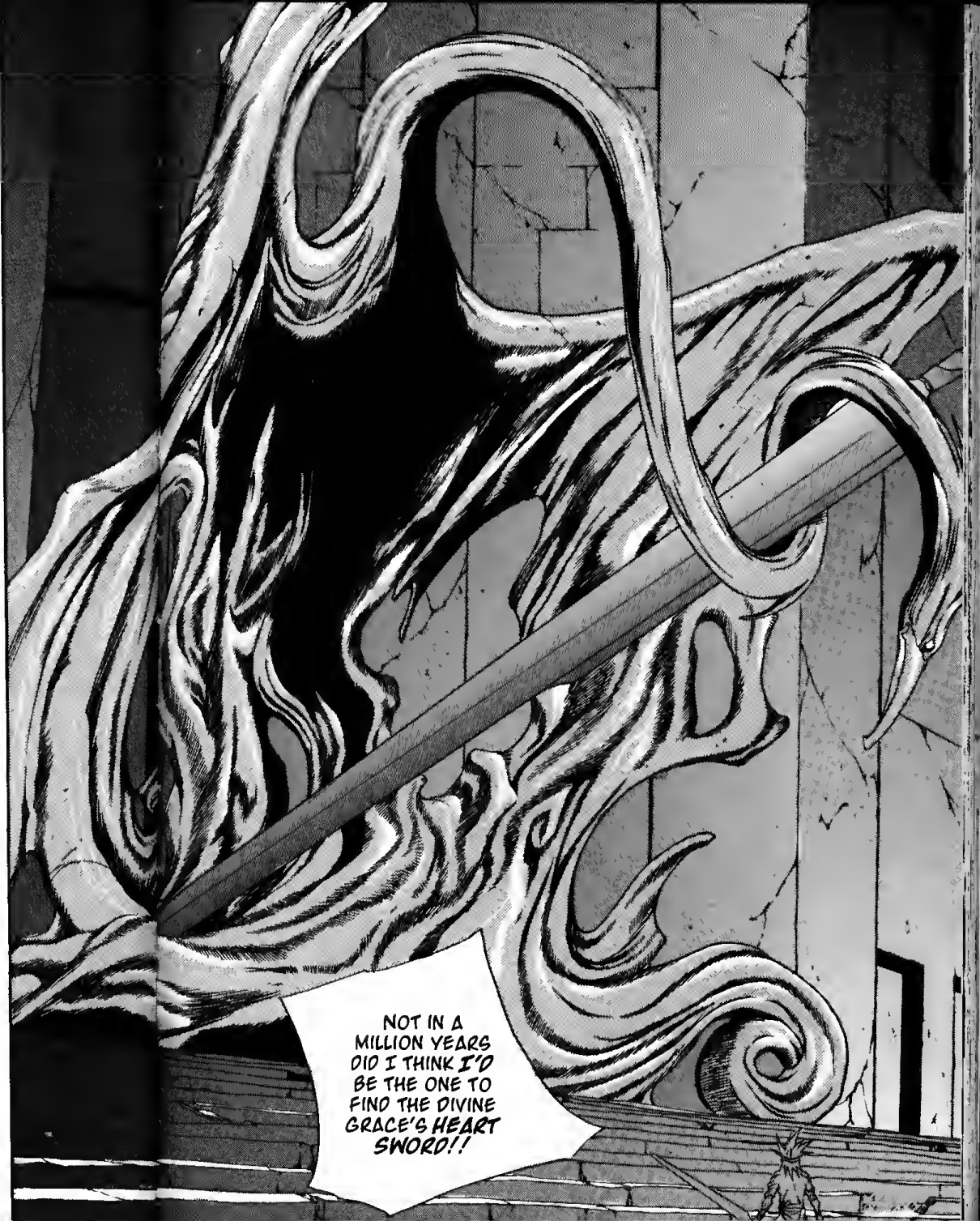
HFF...
HFF...


Tap!




IN MY VEINS FLOWS THE CURSED BLOOD OF A DEMON... BLOOD THAT MIGHT ONE DAY KILL YOU.

OH-
KAAAY...
...UM,
WHERE IN THE
HELL AM I? I'M
FAIRLY POSITIVE
I WAS SUCKED
INTO THE
LAKE...
WAIT A
SEC...I'M
INSIDE THE
LAKE?!
WATER.
HUH.
HOW'S
THAT EVEN
POSSIBLE?
WHAT'S
KEEPING
THE WATER
FROM--
WAIT.
WHAT'S
THAT?
IS IT...?
IT IS!!
OH,
YEEEAH!!
I FOUND
IT!!


NOT IN A
MILLION YEARS
DID I THINK I'D
BE THE ONE TO
FIND THE DIVINE
GRACE'S HEART
SWORD!!

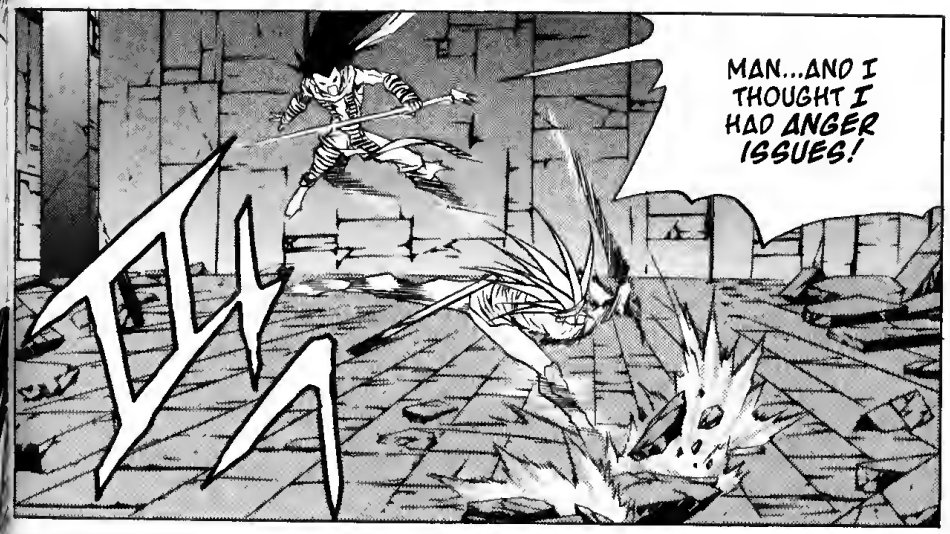
BLADE OF HEAVEN

YOU AGAIN?! I WAS SURE YOU'D BOUGHT THE FARM!
DUDE... YOU'RE JUST AS RESILIENT AS HEMORRHOIDS--BUT TEN TIMES MORE ANNOYING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE "DIVINE GRACE'S HEART SWORD?"
SEE THAT GORGEOUS STEEL EQUALIZER OVER THERE? THAT IS THE DIVINE GRACE'S HEART SWORD!!
HA!! THE BLADE REALLY PICKED A WINNER THIS TIME! GUY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS NOSE!!
I TOLD EVERYONE YOU WERE A LOSER! BUT NOOO...! OL' KAY DOESN'T KNOW HIS FOOT FROM A HAM SANDWICH!
ALLOW ME TO SCHOOL YA, SON... IT'S ONLY ANOTHER PIECE OF THE BLADE OF HEAVEN!
A PIECE THAT ONLY AWAKENS IN THE HANDS OF THE CURRENT WIELDER OF THE BLADE!
THE HEART SWORD...!

YOU CAN WIPE THAT LONGING EXPRESSION OFF YOUR MUG RIGHT NOW!

YOU MAY HAVE OBTAINED THE LION SWORD...
...BUT NO WAY I'M GONNA LET LIGHTNING STRIKE TWICE!!

THE FREE RIDE YOU'VE HAD JUST GOT A HELLUVA LOT MORE EXPENSIVE!!


MAN...AND I THOUGHT I HAD ANGER ISSUES!

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS I WAS CHOSEN BY THE BLADE INSTEAD OF YOU!
ME JEALOUS OF YOU?! HA! THAT'S LIKE STEPPING IN VOMIT AND ENVYING THE GUY WITH CRAP ON HIS SHOE!!

OF
OF

WHAT'S THIS?! DON'T EVEN THINK THAT YOU CAN TRICK ME WITH YOUR SMOKE AND MIRRORS ROUTINE!!

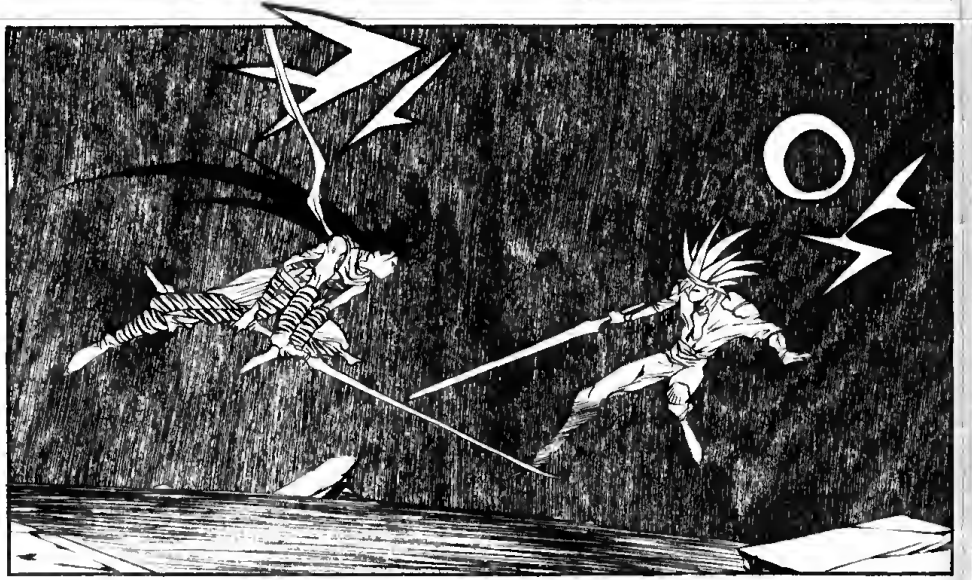
HIS INNER ENERGY...

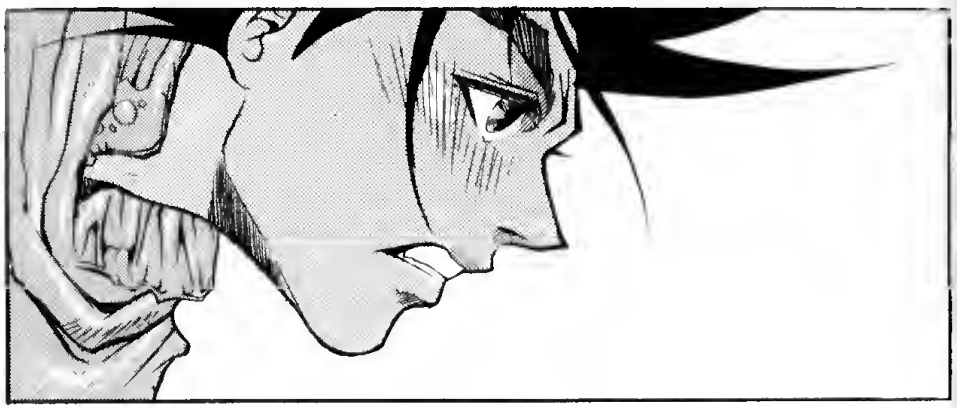
...THE BLADE'S CLOAKING IT! I CAN'T SENSE IT...!

SO YOU'RE HIP TO THAT TRICK, EH? NO WORRIES--I'VE GOT A FEW MORE UP MY SLEEVE!!

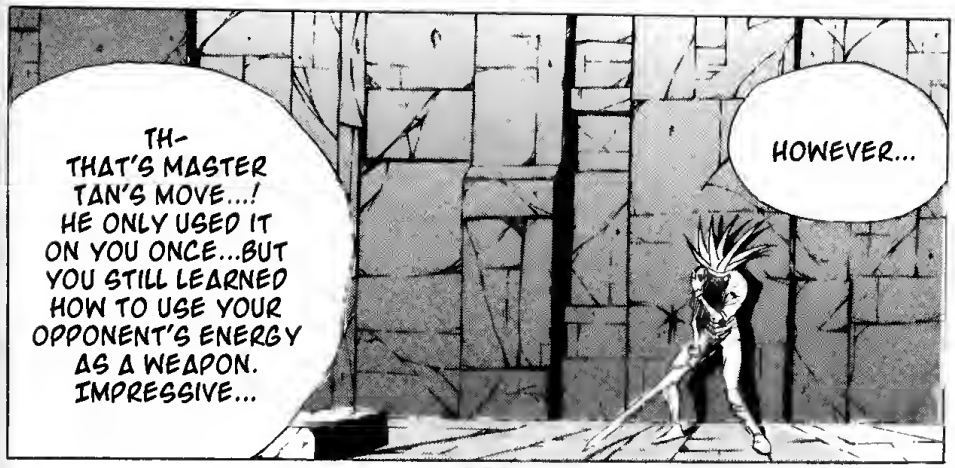
WHAT...?! HOW DID HE...?!

NUTS! I CAN'T DODGE IT!



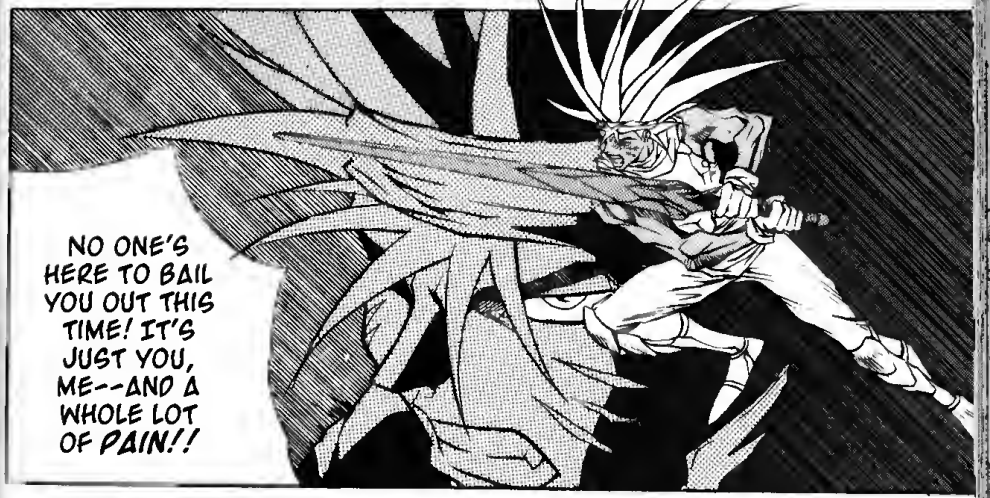


Y-YOU'RE... QUITE ADEPT... AT S-STEALING... TECHNIQUES... AREN'T YA?
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...

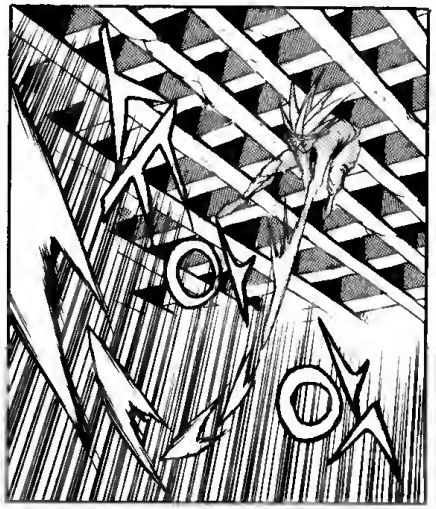

TH- THAT'S MASTER TAN'S MOVE...! HE ONLY USED IT ON YOU ONCE...BUT YOU STILL LEARNED HOW TO USE YOUR OPPONENT'S ENERGY AS A WEAPON. IMPRESSIVE...
HOWEVER...

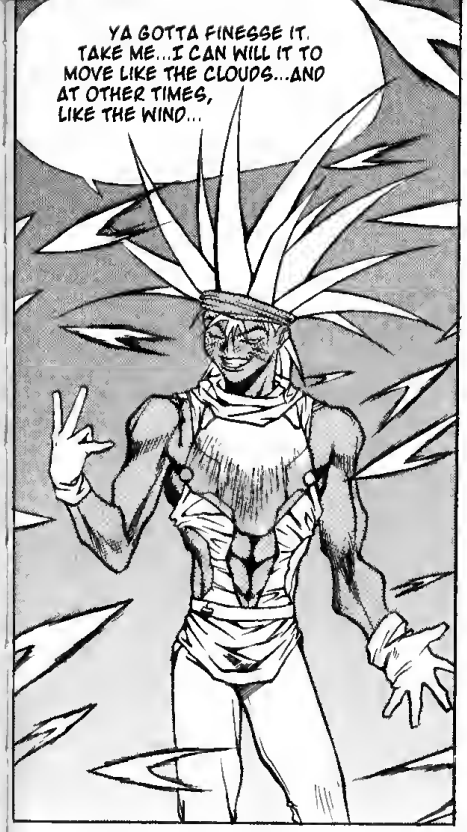
...THE ONLY REASON YOUR ATTACK DID ANY DAMAGE AT ALL WAS BECAUSE OF THE BLADE'S IMMENSE POWER! SO IF YOU THINK YOU GOT ME BY THE SHORT AND CURLIES, THEN YOU'RE GRAVELY MISTAKEN!
AS SOON AS WARRIORS IN MY CLAN ARE BORN, WE IMMEDIATELY UNDERGO RIGOROUS TRAINING TO PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE.
I'VE BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO KILL MY WAY OUT OF ANY GIVEN SITUATION!
NO WAY A BACKWATER NOVICE LIKE YOU WILL TAKE ME DOWN!!

TORPEDO SWORD!!


NO ONE'S HERE TO BAIL YOU OUT THIS TIME! IT'S JUST YOU, ME--AND A WHOLE LOT OF PAIN!!

I'D RATHER DIE THAN LOSE TO A PUNK LIKE YOU!! TORPEDO FURY!!



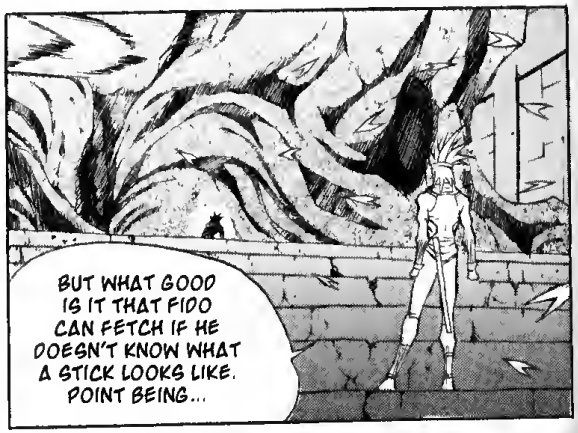

YA GOTTA FINESSE IT. TAKE ME...I CAN WILL IT TO MOVE LIKE THE CLOUDS...AND AT OTHER TIMES, LIKE THE WIND...

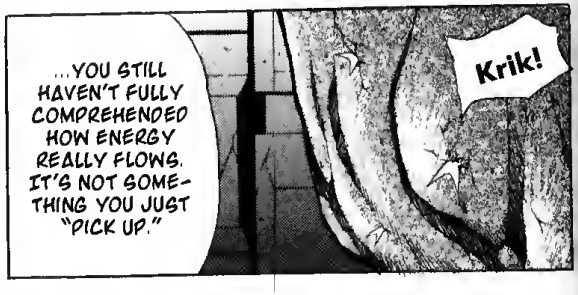
MAN...YOU MUST NEVER GET HUNGRY...

WHAT ...?

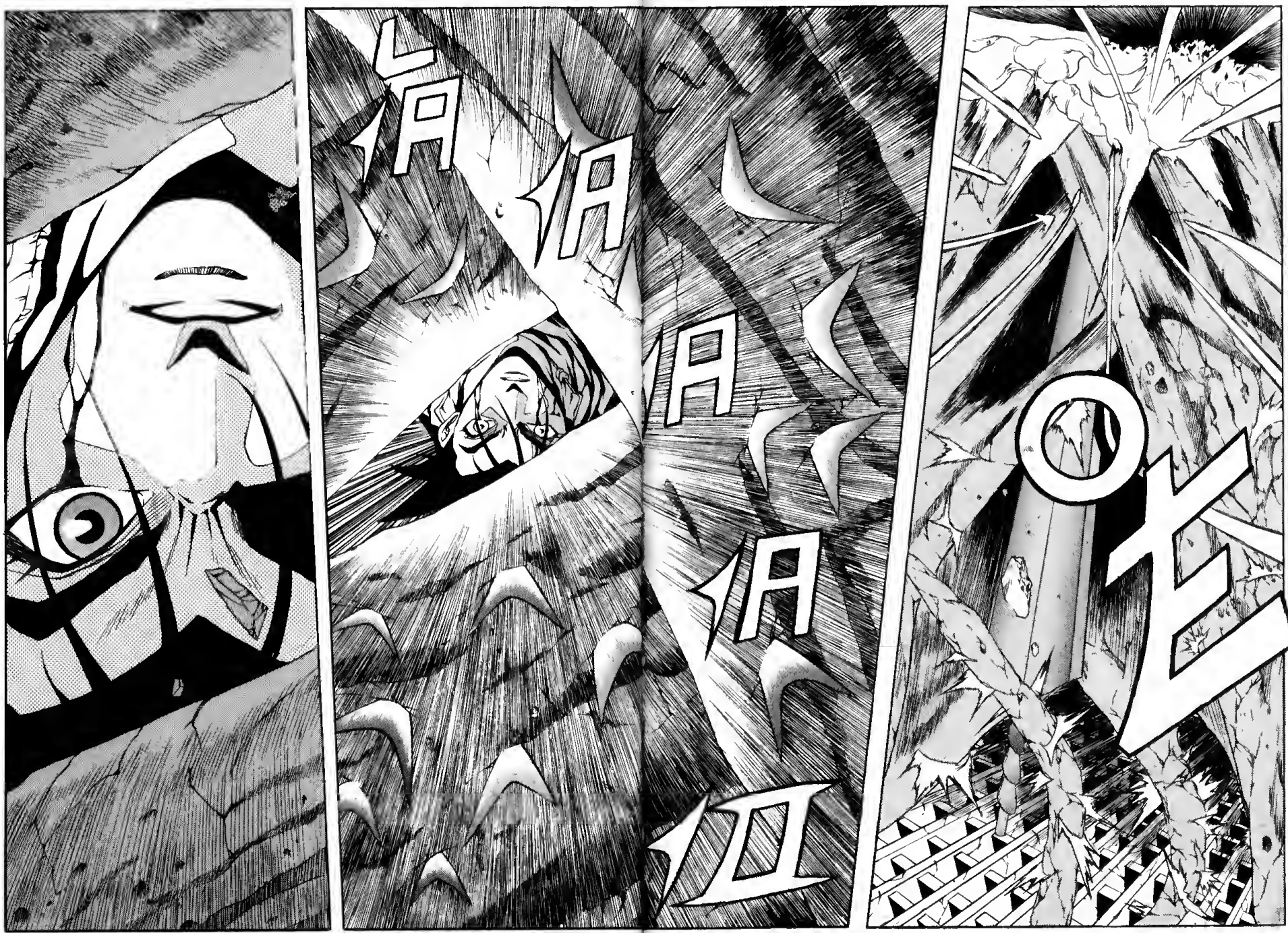
...BECAUSE YOU'RE SO FULL OF YOURSELF!

SURE...YOU TAUGHT YOURSELF A NEW TRICK.


BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT THAT FIDO CAN FETCH IF HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A STICK LOOKS LIKE. POINT BEING...


...YOU STILL HAVEN'T FULLY COMPREHENDED HOW ENERGY REALLY FLOWS. IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU JUST "PICK UP."
Krik!

SONOFA...THAT'S IT!! NO MORE EXPLANATIONS, NO MORE GLOATING, NO MORE WISECRACKS!! NOW I'M IN FULL-ON ASS-KICK MODE!!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ARE YER OUTTA YER DOGGONE MIND?! JUMPING INTO THAT THERE POND IS SUICIDE!!
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS! SOME KINDA FORCE SWALLOWED 'EM UP WHOLE!
'SIDES, IF MY SCIENTIFIC HYPOTHESIS IS CORRECT, I'M POSITIVE THAT SOMEWHERE IN THAT LAKE...
...IS A VERY, VERY, SCARY WATER BEASTIE!!
NOOOO!! I KNEW IT!! MY POOR LITTLE DONG DONG HAS SUFFERED IRREPARABLE BRAIN DAMAGE!! JUST LISTENING TO HER NONSENSICAL RAMBLINGS BREAKS ME HEART!!
NOW, NOW... YOU'LL FEEL A LOT BETTER AFTER A NICE, LONG NAP!

IDIOTS!!
FINE!! IF YA DON'T BELIEVE ME, THEN GO ON AHEAD INSIDE!! BUT DON'T COME CRYIN' TA ME IF YA GIT KILLT!!
SHE'S WAY SCARIER THAN SOME CRUMMY WATER MONSTER...
IT ISN'T A WATER MONSTER... THOUGH SHE'S NOT FAR FROM THE TRUTH.

YOU AGAIN?! LISTEN, YOU OLD GEEZER--YOU'VE BEEN FEEDING US GIBBERISH FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!

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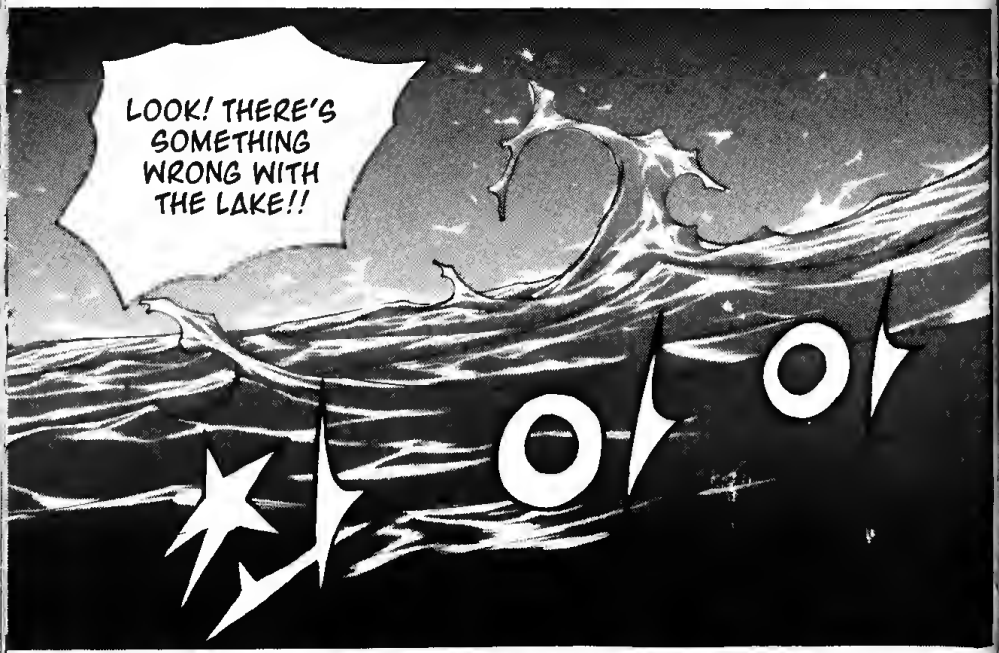
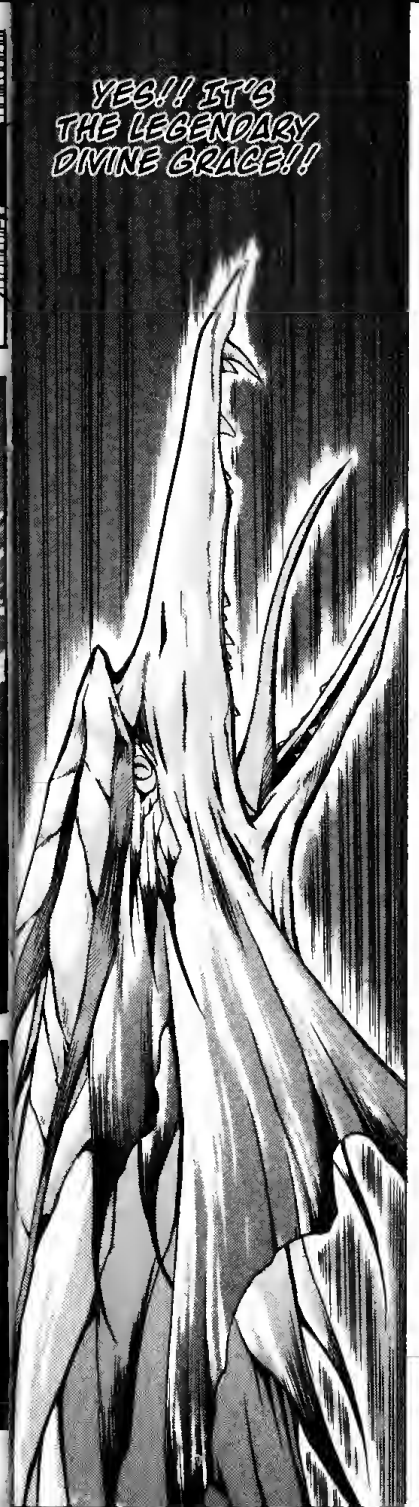
WHAT WITH ALL YOUR FAIRY TALE "DIVINE GRACE" TALK! BOLLOCKS! AND ANOTHER THING--
EH?


LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE LAKE!!

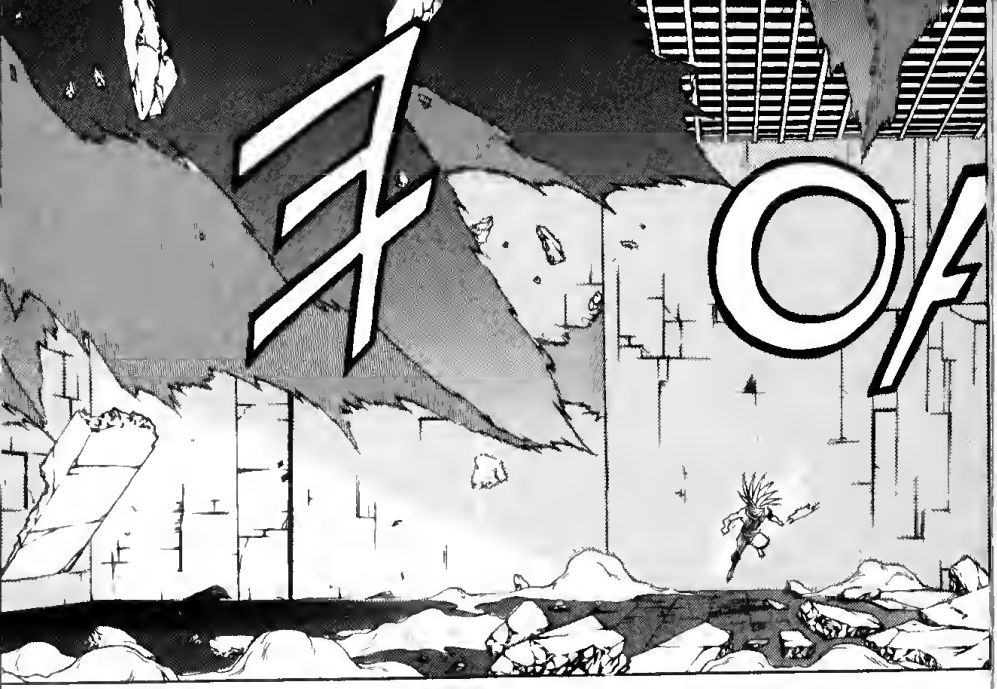
COULD IT BE...?!


YES!! IT'S THE LEGENDARY DIVINE GRACE!!

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
THIS...THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!!

IT'S EVEN MORE PERFECT THAN I DREAMED!
THE HERO OF THE DIVINE GRACE HAS BEEN BORN!!

THE DIVINE GRACE'S HEART SWORD HAS AWAKENED!!
NO...! IT'S NOT FAIR...!
THE HEART SWORD HAS CHOSEN HIM...
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
NO!! I WON'T LET YOU STEAL IT FROM ME!!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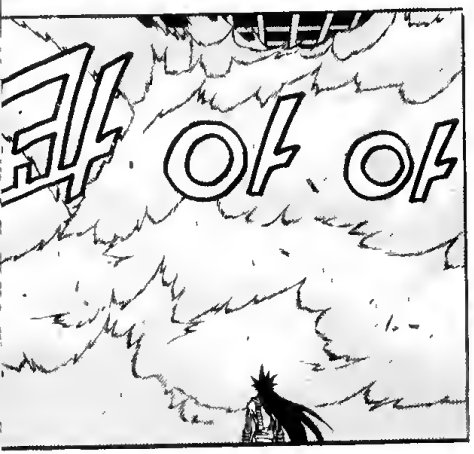
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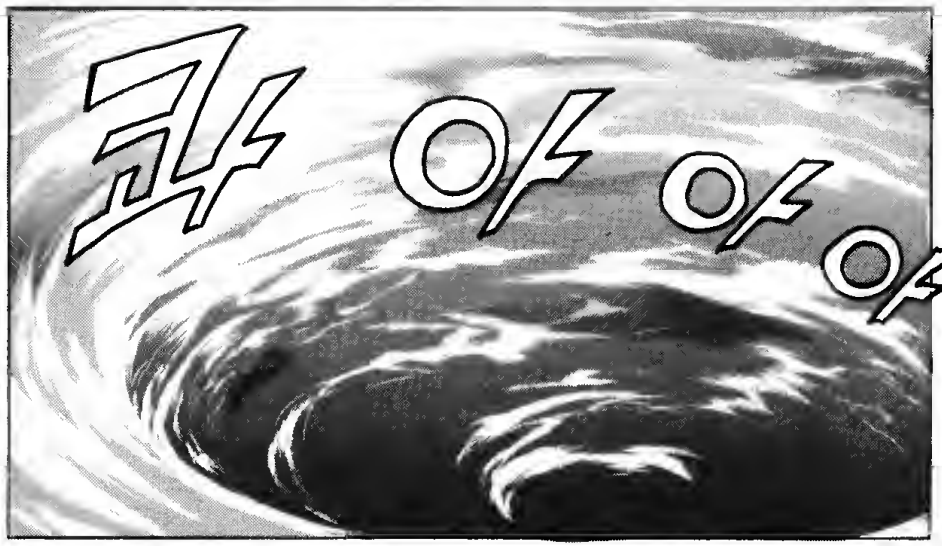
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HURK!
GAK!
BE IT HEAVEN OR HELL--
--THERE'S NOWHERE YOU CAN GO TO ESCAPE MY WRATH!
TH-THIS...ISN'T OVER...! N-NOT BY... A LONG S-SHOT...!
JUST YOU WAIT...!
BLADE OF HEAVEN 5
END

IN THE NEXT BONE-CRUNCHING VOLUME OF

BLADE OF HEAVEN

TRAPPED WITHIN THE LABYRINTHINE HALLWAYS OF THE MYSTERIOUS UNDERWATER CASTLE, DUO PLAYERS STRUGGLE NOT ONLY TO FIND A WAY OUT, BUT EACH OTHER AS WELL. UNEXPECTEDLY, SOMA ENCOUNTERS A POWERFUL WISEMAN FROM THE EASTERN RACE WHO PROVIDES THE YOUNG WARRIOR WITH SHOCKING NEW INFORMATION REGARDING HIS DESTINY. AND AS AN ADDED BONUS, THE MIGHTY SAGE GIVES SOMA SOME NOT-SO-SUBTLE INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO IMPROVE HIS SOMEWHAT UNORTHODOX SKILLS WITH THE BLADE.

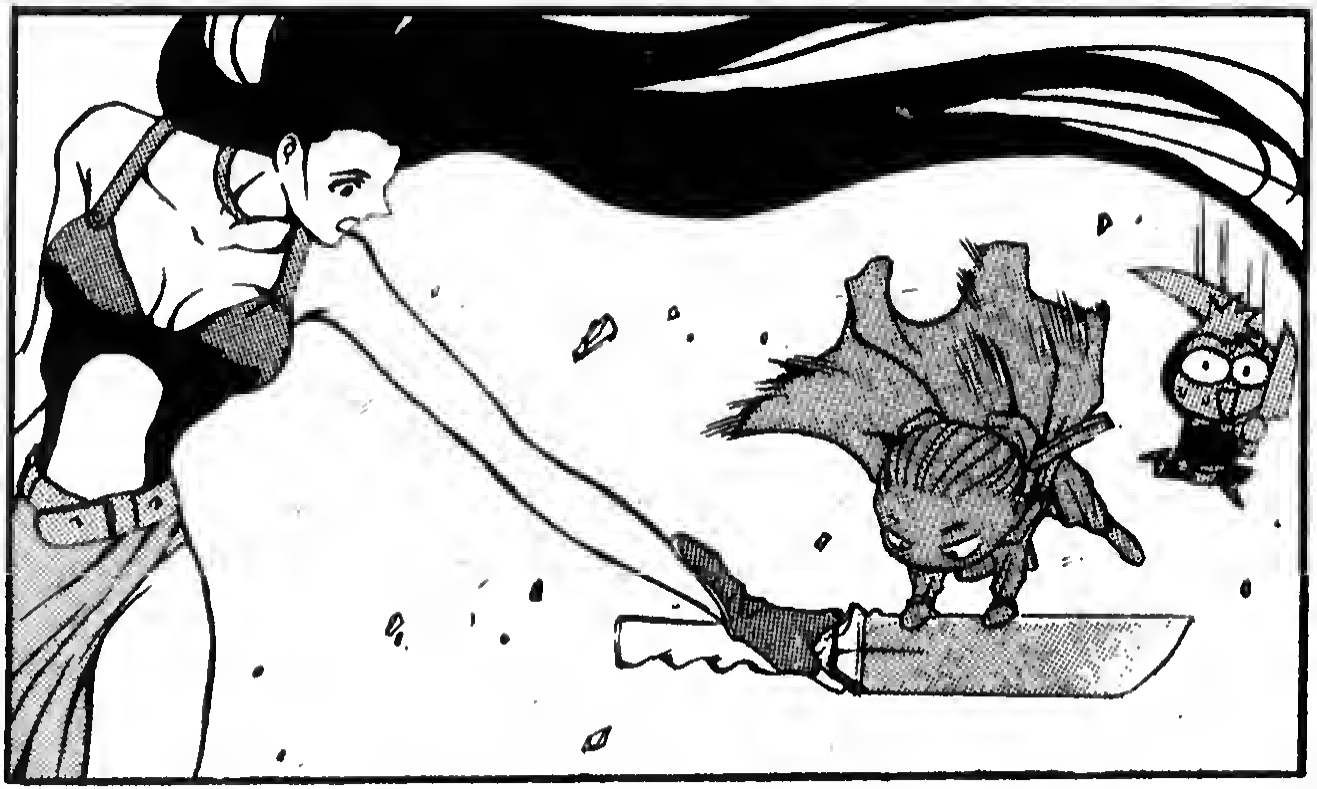
GET READY TO RUMBLE IN

BLADE OF HEAVEN

VOLUME 6!

quick release

by

Kick The Kitty

(and all lived happy ever after)